Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 191 | **MONDAY** AUGUST 13, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

> But you and I know that the numbers as it is right now are not there to impeach the governor. We hope that will change.
>
> — Rep. Ray Tebuteb

Fitial impeachment talks brewing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Talks about impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial have been brewing in the Legislature for months and the latest addition to possible articles of impeachment is the governor's link to the use of armed police and ports police officers allegedly to shield Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges, sources told *Saipan Tribune* during the weekend.

» Even as House, Senate try to dig deeper into Buckingham, DPS, CPA 'airport incident'

Lawmakers said an impeachment resolution was "drafted a few months ago" but its final form would include the governor's decision to concur with the AG's decision to rescind his notice of resignation despite the AG's defiance of a penal summons.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), the only lawmaker who agreed to go on record, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* last night that some lawmakers "have been discussing initiative impeachment proceedings." He said these lawmakers have been listening to the cries of the people for change and to hold officials accountable for their actions.

"But you and I know that the numbers as it is right now are not there to impeach the governor. We hope that will change," Tebuteb told *Saipan Tribune.*

Tebuteb, a member of the House minority bloc, said "although we have a constitutional tool to address grave concerns, the House leadership has no guts to use it." The House majority is aligned with the governor.

Another lawmaker said while there is no sufficient number right now to vote on the impeachment, "if we begin the process and once evidence starts coming

See TALKS on Page 4

LONGER HOURS

A man walks past post office boxes at the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa on Friday. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) announced on Thursday that the public will be able to pick up their arriving packages during regular business hours and not only at the special package pick-up times that are currently in effect, following discussions between Sablan's office and USPS on concerns from the public.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

US Social Security confirms working with CNMI

» Social Security official to visit Saipan ahead of Oct. 1 transition

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Social Security Administration regional commissioner Bill Zielinski confirmed that his agency is already working in partnership with the CNMI government to enroll its employees into the Social Security program. He also hopes to provide accurate information about the options available to the CNMI government.

Zielinski

This is the first time a U.S. Social Security official commented on the matter since the Fitial administration announced transitioning government employees into the Social Security program months ago.

See US on Page 4

Hospital staff fail to receive Friday payroll

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
monethdeposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Employees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. expressed disappointment and frustration after they failed to get their salaries last Friday.

The corporation has over 400 employees, including staff for all essential and non-essential units and programs under the Division of Public Health on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Saipan Tribune learned that the corporation usually makes available personnel salaries—through direct deposits—around noon every other Friday.

Many employees interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* disclosed that they never expected that there will be delay on their payroll because there was no advance notification from management.

A longtime nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center shared last Saturday that as early as 3pm Friday, many

See PAYROLL on Page 4

Commerce taps Chamber on health insurance survey. PAGE 2
Healthcare Corp.: Medicare receptive on CNMI requests. PAGE 3

POLL RESULTS

Do you think DPS officers escorting AG Edward T. Buckingham and his wife to the airport was proper?

Yes	25
No	226

Sunday, April 15, 2012

INSIDE

BUSINESS

A deepening drought in the nation's farm states has cut further into this fall's harvest, with farmers now expected to pull from their fields the lowest corn yield in more than a decade. ➤ PAGE 13

ASIA

China's top diplomat said Friday the country was willing to ease differences over the handling of territorial disputes in the South China Sea and insisted that maintaining peace there was a shared responsibility. ➤ PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE

A federal judge ruled Friday that a businessman working with Michael Jackson's mother has violated copyrights owned by the singer's estate and should be blocked from future uses of the work. ➤ PAGE 20

Local

Commerce taps Chamber on health insurance survey

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"How much do I spend for health insurance costs? Does my health insurance provider clearly explain to me all available plan options?" These are some of the things that consumers have to ponder on as they participate in a CNMI Department of Commerce survey on health insurance.

Commerce has asked the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to help in conducting a customer satisfaction survey in connection with work that is being done relevant to the patient Protection and Affordable Care Act by forwarding the survey to our membership.

Those who are inclined to participate are asked to complete the survey at the following confidential link, www.surveymonkey.com/s/LR25G32.

The six-question survey is divided into plan service and health plan costs.

Under the "plan service," questions are focused on gauging customer experience related to their health insurance provider.

Survey participants are asked to choose among the following responses to questions: "strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, strongly agree" on every statement, including, "My health insurance provider clearly explained all of my available plan options," and "My health insurance provider clearly explained my health plan rates.

Other statements survey participants have to rate are, "My health insurance provider clearly communicates changes in their product offerings," and "My health insurance provider clearly explained their claims process."

The "health plan costs" part of the survey is focused on gauging customer satisfaction with their health insurance costs.

Participants are asked to rate the following statements: "I am aware of how much I spend for health insurance costs," and "My health insurance policy covers my needs at a reasonable cost."

The Chamber said for additional information, contact John Blanco, Rate Review administrator, at 664-3015, or email at cnmiratereview@commerce.gov.mp.

TCGC legal counsel seeks reopening of 2007 lawsuit vs Tinian mayor

Tinian Casino Gaming Commission's legal counsel Elliott A. Sattler has moved the federal court to reopen his 2007 lawsuit against the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan after the municipality is again allegedly attempting to interfere with TCGC's budgetary authority.

Attorney Braddock J. Huesman, counsel for Sattler, has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to enforce the terms of the consent decree that Sattler and the Tinian and Aguiguan mayor entered in June 2007.

The consent decree, which the federal court approved, provided that the mayor and his agents, could not retaliate against either Sattler or TCGCC by "affecting, altering, or otherwise interfering with the expenditure authority of the commission."

Huesman asked the court to set a conference for this matter so that Sattler may enforce his rights under the consent decree.

In the alternative, Huesman asked the court to issue an order to show cause why the mayor should not be held in contempt of court for failing to adhere to follow the consent decree.

Saipan Tribune tried on Friday but failed to get comment from the municipality.

Huesman said five years ago, then Tinian mayor Jose P. San Nicolas attempted to violate Sattler's rights by interfering with his contract and reducing his salary.

Huesman said the mayor did this through a budgetary law that allowed him to usurp TCGC's budgetary authority.

Sattler filed a lawsuit, but the mayor agreed to enter into a consent decree.

Then U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex Munson reinstated Sattler's $110,000 per annum salary after declaring as unconstitutional a provision of the Tinian Municipal Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2006.

Huesman said current Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz or his agents are again using budgetary concerns to lower Sattler's compensation.

This time, Huesman said, the current mayor has attempted to reduce Sattler's compensation by reducing the sick leave, annual leave, and retirement contributions.

The lawyer said the mayor purports to use the "authority" of Local Bill No. 17-10, which provides that the mayor is the "expenditure authority for all funds appropriated herein."

Huesman asid Local Bill No. 17-10 directly conflicts with the consent decree by stripping TCGC of its budgetary authority and placing it in the hands of the mayor. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ALL NEW SMART PINOY CARD!

SMART PINOY

NO LONG DISTANCE CHARGES TO CALL & TEXT YOU FROM THE PHILIPPINES!

FREE ADDED FEATURES:
CHOOSE FROM 33 MIN. CALLS TO ANY SMART, SUN OR DIGITEL NUMBER OR
24-HOUR UNLI CALLS TO ANY 2 PLDT NUMBERS

NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
The CNMI's most powerful GSM network.
483-CARE • www.docomopacific.com
Middle Road, Gualo Rai
Iba Tayong Magmahal

Got Diabetes?
"You Need an Eye Exam Every Year"
Because Diabetes May Be Stealing Your Sight
Even though you are seeing perfectly well
Don't let diabetes win.
Visit the Center for Advanced Diabetic Eye Care
Don't Wait until It's Too Late

Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Lade
Specializing in Diabetic Retinopathy Evaluation
Comprehensive Medical Eye Care
Vision Care

David Khorram, MD
America's Top Ophthalmologists
Specializing in Retinal and Diabetic Eye Disease
Advance Cataract Surgery with Lens Implant
Complex Eye Disease

Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com
One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medical Eye Care
Advance Surgery and Laser
We accept: Aetna, Staywell, Moylan's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Calvos' and more.
If you can't pay for your care, the Eye Foundation Fund helps cover your costs.

Healthcare Corp.: Medicare receptive on CNMI requests

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta described as "positive and receptive" the outcome of his recent meetings with the officials of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services in San Francisco where he raised important health concerns of the CNMI.

Babauta

Among these issues is the proposal for CMMS to classify the corporation's $7 million line of credit from Marianas Public Land Trust as certified public expenditure (CPE) so it can be used by the CNMI in increasing the local matching funds for the Medicaid program.

Babauta said the ultimate goal of increasing Medicaid local matching is to get bigger reimbursement from the federal match.

Medicaid is a federal/state operated program designed for low-income citizens. At present, the CNMI is sharing 45 percent of the operational funding, while 55 percent are funded from federal sources.

The Medicaid program presently has too many clients but too little money to support the program.

It was earlier disclosed that there are approximately 19,000 people certified for Medicaid in the CNMI which represents about 30 percent of the estimated Commonwealth population of 50,000.

By 2014, the client base is expected to grow about 35,000 to 40,000. This is because when the national poverty level of 133 percent applies, this will mean individuals who are earning less than $15,690 per annum will become eligible to the Medicaid program.

"Our meeting with Medicare was very positive. They were very receptive on the idea of using CPE as a matching model for the Medicaid program because they agreed that CNMI needs more assistance and we can only get more from the federal side if we can increase our local matching side," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* during the filing of petitions for Republican candidates for mid-term elections last week.

Prior to the CEO's trip to San Francisco, Medicare already agreed to use the corporation's $5 million seed money as matching fund for the Medicaid program by identifying the money as CPE. For the $7 million MPLT loan, Medicare has yet to give a formal decision.

Besides this "positive" meeting on the CPE proposal, Babauta said Medicare is also looking at certifying some Manila hospitals as Medicaid-certified facilities for purposes of referrals. Among these hospitals are The Medical City and the St. Luke's Medical Center. To do this, Babauta said Medicare regulations have to be amended to qualify these facilities.

For the CNMI to drawdown higher reimbursement from the federal side, it has to come up with its local share.

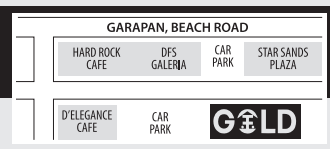
This fiscal year, the CNMI—with only $2.4 million matching fund—was only able to drawdown from federal side $3.6 million, resulting in overall budget to date of $6 million. In order for the Medicaid program to drawdown up to $32 million, the CNMI has to come up with matching funds of $14 million and from federal side, $18 million.

VISIT YTT GOLD Jewelry 元通金行 TODAY

Exchange your unwanted, damage, outdated and worn gold for CASH!

- Bring any GOLD items to our store in Garapan
- Our Consultants will test and value you GOLD items
- We will give you CASH on the spot!

Tel. No.: 233-2368 | Business Hours: 10:00am - 8:00pm | Sunday Closed
Located behind Duty Free and Star Sands Plaza



Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

HOT SUMMER SAVINGS
Customers First TRIPLE J

Introducing Castrol GTX

Modern Engine 10W-30 motor oil in 1-liter bottles.
Available Exclusively at Triple J Motors
and these fine retail outlets:
• Twins Supermarket, Puerto Rico • Highway Express, Gualo Rai • Kagman Market
• Han Nam Market, Koblerville • Dolphin Wholesale, San Jose • Capitol Hill Market

BUMPER-TO-BUMPER Maintenance Service
Saipan's Best Comprehensive Auto Maintenance Service

- Oil and filter change with Castrol synthetic blend 5W30
- Clean and inspect front and rear brakes
- Inspect and rotate tires; set correct tire pressure
- Check fuel tank, lines, hoses and connections, plus add Johnsen's fuel-injector cleaner
- Inspect front and rear axle boots and joints
- Inspect front and rear suspension, and drivetrain
- Clean A/C filter and adjust drive belts
- Clean air filter (a dirty air filter can cost 2-3 mpg in fuel efficiency)
- Test battery & clean terminals - Charge if necessary
- Check underbody for damage, rust or corrosion
- Perform minor chassis lubrication and topping of low fluids

Plus, receive a FREE Exterior Car Wash and Durafresh Organica Scent Can

Starting at $99.95*
IT'S MORE THAN JUST OIL. IT'S LIQUID ENGINEERING.™
Castrol
*4 cylinder vehicles only. 6+ cylinder vehicles & above starting at $109.95. Disposal fee not included and some restrictions apply. Service recommended every 6 months or 6,000 miles. Keep your brakes and engine oil clean! Offer good for a limited time only.

Customers First TRIPLE J
TRIPLE J MOTORS PARTS & SERVICE
Located on Beach Road, Chalan LauLau
Open Mon-Fri: 7:30am to 5:30pm • Sat: 7:30am to 5:00pm
Tel: 234-7133/3051 ext 25/27 • Fax: 234-3052
Email:
serviceadvisor@triplejsaipan.com
rsteele@triplejsaipan.com
www.carssaipan.com

Vanuatu provident fund management accused of nepotism

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—Damaging media reports into alleged mismanagement practices within the Vanuatu National Provident Fund (VNPF) by Anniva Tarilongi's management allegedly run deeper than previously thought, with more revelations that nepotism and politics are taking a foothold on the people's only retirement scheme.

This modus operandi seems to be having a hand in major management decisions—whether it is recruitment procedures, tendering processes or salary increments for certain members of staff and the managerial team.

There is clear evidence of nepotism by the management in the recruitment procedures—favoring either one particular province, namely Penama; former staff of Telecom Vanuatu Limited— where the General Manager was formerly employed; or applicants simply with connections with the Prime Minister personally or his People's Progressive Party (PPP).

For example, the new head of VNPF's corporate Services Ms. Nadia Kanegai, is an executive member of the PPP, holding the position within the party as treasurer.

VNPF Staff Code of Conduct purposely prohibits staff from taking part in political activities because of the experiences of the past that led to the January 12, 1998 VNPF riots. That code of conduct was basically shunted aside in the appointment of Kanegai, not to mention her Penama connections.

Kanegai recently took a one-week leave in order to attend the PPP congress in Mele where she presented the party's treasury report. She had not even served one year with the Fund, in accordance with the Employment Act, following her appointment to warrant the right to take leave at the time.

Tarilongi had a major say in Kanegai's recruitment, immediately after her appointment last year. But it would seem former Board members, Cherol Ala—whose term ended last week and Keith Hango (deceased), who incidentally was Tarilongi's cousin, influenced the decision to appoint the GM.

Information surfaced this week that Kanegai had also applied for the post of General Manager, together with Tarilongi. And when the job was awarded to Tarilongi, Kanegai's appointment became unavoidable in order to not only appease her but also to reward a 'Wantok' for not getting the top job.

It does not end there. Most of the new recruitments made under Tarilongi have the same imprints, as she spearheaded what some have described as a "head-hunting" recruitment process.

The process is simple: firstly, have somebody in mind, advertise the post to fulfill legal requirements—supposedly to give others a 'fair chance', and then hand-pick the person they have in mind. The recruitment of Manager Human Resource is one such example. The incumbent, Madeline Sewere, is apparently the sister of Prime Minister Sato Kilman who before her appointment was back in Malekula—jobless.

In addition, the recruitment of the Fund's current Risk Officer smacks of the same dodgy recruitment procedure. According to media investigations, while the interview panel recommended a different candidate, the job was given instead to a Dalcy Temakon, another former employee of Telecom Vanuatu Ltd.

According to what the media have been shown, two further recruitments for positions in the Members Financial Services Ltd (MFSL), a subsidiary investment arm of the Fund, are from Penama. One, Sterlin Tari, is a cousin to the General Manager while the other is George Wilbur, a former staff of the Westpac Bank.

Not only that, prior to Tarilongi's appointment, the job of Secretary to the General Manager was being handled by VNPF staffer Linda Gibson. The job is now handed to one Anna Tapasongi, yet another recruit poached from Telecom.

In the meantime Linges Jones, a regular VNPF staff now on study leave at USP in Fiji, was sent purposely to study for the job by the former management. It has emerged she will have no position under the current structure upon her return. Further reports alleged she has lost all her study leave entitlements at the instigation of the new management, even though the Fund had approved her study and entitlements in the first place.

If the VNPF has one of the most expensive handymen in Pakoa Williams, who according to recent media reports was earning over Vt100,000 [US$1,085] a month, then imagine the type of salaries directors, managers and most of the new recruits are paid.

Mr. Williams is reportedly on "leave" currently, despite being under VNPF's employment for only a matter of months because of the intensity of the media spotlight shone on his fat salary bill.

PAYROLL

From Page 1

employees have been waiting for their salary on their bank accounts, only to find out that it will never be issued on time.

It was learned that this is the first time that payroll for "essential" employees was delayed because in previous months they were prioritized during the payroll period. Essential service employees include physicians and nurses. If the corporation's payroll budget is short to cover all employees, *Saipan Tribune* learned that those assigned at non-essential units such as administrative assistants usually suffer payroll delays from three to five days.

"It's very disappointing…because we're expecting our salaries on time. I've waited for hours last Friday, only to find out that it will not be issued on time. Our situation at the hospital is really getting worse," a nurse told *Saipan Tribune*.

Some other affected employees, for their part, criticized management for informing them only in at the 11th hour.

"We were informed about the delay only at the last minute when many of us are already lining up at the bank!" an emotional staff who said that due to the unexpected payroll delay, he was not able to send money to his family in the Philippines.

"Our housing allowance is already delayed for six months and we're only depending on our salaries now. I hope they understand the impact on us of all these situations," a seven-year hospital employee said.

Saipan Tribune learned that corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta issued a brief memorandum to employees Friday afternoon informing about the payroll situation. He cited the failed drawdown on the corporation's budget, but did not elaborate on specific details.

"The CHCC is unable to meet payroll today, Friday, Aug. 10. The corporation, in working with the Department of Finance, was not able to drawdown the balance of the seed money. Therefore, payroll will be issued Monday, Aug. 13, 2012," Babauta told employees in his memo.

Babauta as referring to the $5 million seed money appropriated by the Legislature to the corporation for fiscal year 2012 where only over $200,000 is received as allotment every pay period. It was earlier disclosed that corporation's payroll biweekly amounts to over $800,000, a bulk of which is sourced from the hospital's monthly collections.

Prior to the corporation takeover, the then Department of Health received an annual budget of between $34 million to $36 million for personnel and operations.

TALKS

From Page 1

out, the tides will change."

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, said "the governor will continue to address the more pressing matters besetting the Commonwealth—the economy and quality of life for our people."

"Rumors and speculation do not catch the governor's attention," Demapan said.

Impeachment and conviction is a method of removing a governor or other government officials. Impeachment is the process of accusing an official of misconduct in office and is similar to the process of indictment by a grand jury. Impeachment is only a formal accusation; it is not a determination of guilt or innocence. This judgment requires a trial.

Article III Section 19 of the NMI Constitution states in part that the governor is subject to impeachment for treason, commission of a felony, corruption or neglect of duty.

"The House of Representatives may initiate impeachment proceedings by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members and the Senate may convict after hearing by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members," Article II Section 8 of the NMI Constitution says.

In the 20-member House, at least 14 affirmative votes are needed to initiate impeachment proceedings.

Tebuteb and other lawmakers hope that the vote would cross party lines.

In the nine-member Senate, at least six affirmative votes are needed to convict.

Sources said among the possible grounds for impeachment are the governor's role in having a federal inmate taken out of prison in the wee hours of the morning to massage him when he said he was in severe pain, and his award of a sole-source contract to manage the ARRA program to a former Cabinet member within days of resigning.

Tebuteb said while he describes as "soft" Rep. Ralph Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) pre-filed resolution requesting the governor to ask for Buckingham's resignation, it shows that some members of the House leadership who signed off as co-sponsors along with members of the minority bloc are not turning a blind eye on alleged abuse of power and misuse of public resources in government.

Demapan separately said he will introduce House Resolution 17-106 in the next House session.

Meanwhile, the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations will dig deeper into Buckingham's questionable exit from the CNMI and the alleged involvement of Department of Public Safety officers and Commonwealth Ports Authority ports officers.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the EAGI Committee, said their next move will largely depend on the responses of DPS and CPA to the panel's requests for information about the Aug. 4 incident at the airport.

Cruz formally asked on Friday acting DPS commissioner Aniceto Ogumoro and CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero to initiate a "full internal investigation" into what appeared to be an attempt by armed DPS and CPA officers to prevent the serving of a penal summons to Buckingham on his way out of the CNMI.

The Fitial administration said yesterday there's no telling when exactly Buckingham will be back. But Buckingham said he will be on a 30-day leave. The governor told reporters on Friday he wants Buckingham back.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman issued a bench warrant for Buckingham's arrest for not appearing in court despite penal summons served on him by an FBI special agent.

Wiseman imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Buckingham. He determined that the AG flagrantly disregarded the court's lawful penal summons.

OPA also filed amended information adding two more charges against Buckingham. The new charges—obstructing justice: interference with service of process, and misconduct in public office—were related to Buckingham's alleged use of police officers to escort him at the airport to avoid being served with penal summons between Aug. 3 and 4.

US

From Page 1

Press secretary Angel Demapan, meanwhile, said last night that Zielinski approved the visit to Saipan of SSA director Martin White ahead of the Oct. 1 implementation of transitioning CNMI government employees into the U.S. Social Security system.

Zielinski, of the SSA San Francisco Regional Office, said he has seen significant confusion and misinformation about the options available to the government. He said this is an important issue and that makes it important for everyone to have the facts.

"Social Security is already working in partnership with the CNMI government to enroll its employees into Social Security. The Governor has submitted the required request to the Commonwealth legislature," Zielinski said in an Aug. 10 letter to *Saipan Tribune*.

Zielinski was referring to House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-312, "expressing the desire" of the CNMI to transfer active government employees to the U.S. Social Security program.

"The House passed it last month and the Senate is expected to approve it shortly. Once approved, the request will go to the U.S. Department of the Treasury to begin the tax collections and coverage for the government employees," Zielinski said.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), in a phone interview yesterday, said comments from residents during Saipan, Tinian, and Rota public hearings on the administration-drafted HB 17-312 "appear to be inclined to support the proposal."

Manglona said the Senate is "thinking of combining HB 17-312 with HB 17-315," which has yet to pass the House. HB 17-315, introduced by floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), allows for the participation of CNMI government employees in Social Security.

Demapan said "the administration continues to encourage the Legislature to act on these much needed measures."

'Retroactive coverage'

Zielinski said there is no ability under current law to provide CNMI government employees with retroactive Social Security coverage.

"To pursue any retroactive coverage, CNMI would need to seek legislation in the U.S. Congress to authorize such coverage. I know this is a difficult time for the Commonwealth employees. They and the government need to have the right information to make the best choices," Zielinski added.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that the "buy-back or retroactive coverage is going to be complicated," referring to the amendment of the Social Security law. He said his office has also been in contact with the Social Security.

He said he welcomes Zielinski's statement on the working partnership between the Social Security and the CNMI government. Sablan also said Social Security employees stationed on Saipan are responsive and competent.

Demapan, for his part, said Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos "have consistently been making it known that the Commonwealth was working and negotiating with ranking SSA officials for quite some time now."

"In fact, Governor Fitial met with Mr. Zielinski while he was in San Francisco for the FRC [Region 9 Federal Regional Council] meeting last month. At Governor Fitial's request, Mr. Zielinksi was kind enough to approve an official visit by SSA Director Martin White ahead of the implementation date of October 1st," Demapan said.

Fitial, in an Aug. 2 letter to Zielinski, wrote a post-meeting letter thanking the Social Security commissioner for taking the time to hear the CNMI's concerns "in regards to the transition of CNMI government employees into the social security program" during his recent trip to San Francisco.

The Fitial administration wants to transition government employees to the Social Security program, as part of the plan to address mounting concerns about the troubled NMI Retirement Fund. Fitial placed the NMI Retirement Fund under a state of emergency.

'Arctic Circle operations delayed, but not defeated'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Businessman Anthony Pellegrino admitted yesterday that although his foray in the cargo airline business may have encountered some turbulence, he is not about to give up on Arctic Circle Air Co., touted as the CNMI's first cargo carrier.

"The business is on the go. We may be delayed a little bit, but not defeated. That's what we informed them [Commonwealth Development Authority] today because as our major investor, we should provide them a status report as a courtesy," Pellegrino said after a closed-door meeting with the CDA board last Friday.

He said the company is anticipating Arctic Circle aircraft's arrival to the CNMI very soon. Pellegrino said it is scheduled to depart Alaska on Monday and is expected to be on island at least seven days later.

According to Pellegrino, the company completed purchase of Arctic Circle Air Service, Inc. Alaska on Dec. 28, 2011. The Arctic Circle Air owns 100 percent of the outstanding common stock of this 35-year-old Alaskan airline headquartered in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Pellegrino

Saipan Tribune learned that CDA was instrumental in providing funding for the airline purchase and stock of Arctic Circle Air Services. Pellegrino said CDA has been supportive in recognizing the needs of the CNMI in transporting goods between islands.

He said economic development can only take place if goods and people can move between the islands conveniently and economically.

"CDA, along with 55 other local investors, came together to make this business a reality. By the end of August, goods can move between the islands daily. Arctic Circle will offer same day service to its customers on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam," said Pellegrino, in a statement also issued Friday.

He explained the reasons for some of the delays in Artic Circle's operations.

"To meet stringent FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] conformity requirements, company contracted with manufacturer of the aircraft to adhere to FAA operating guidelines. It took longer than anticipated to transfer the aircraft. Aircraft delayed in arriving in Alaska by nearly three months," explained Pellegrino in a statement, adding that mechanical improvements were undertaken in Alaska to prepare for transport to Saipan as well as undertaking required final inspections by FAA.

The Britten-Norman BN-2T aircraft can carry over 2,000 lbs of cargo, or nine passengers for 1,000 miles.

Pellegrino said the company will announce a welcoming party for stockholders, government officials, and customers once the plane arrives on island.

More charges filed vs karaoke operator allegedly engaged in sex trafficking

» Defendant pleads not guilty

A karaoke operator has pleaded not guilty to a superseding indictment charging her for engaging in sex trafficking business.

At an arraignment on Friday, Chang Ru Meng Backman pleaded not guilty to the charges of three counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion; and fraud—making a false statement on an Immigration document.

Attorney Joaquin Torres served as counsel for Backman. Assistant U.S. attorney Rami S. Badawy represented the U.S. government.

The first indictment, which was replaced by the new indictment or the superseding indictment, charged the 39-year-old Backman with three counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion; and three counts of alien smuggling-harboring.

According to the new indictment, Backman, also known as Chang Ru Meng Igisaiar, operated the "New Holiday Club," a karaoke bar located on the second floor of a building on Saipan, which also provided sexual services for an added fee.

Backman allegedly received money from customers of the "New Holiday Club" for sexual services performed by women at her direction.

Sex acts performed by these women generally took place in rooms where the women lived in a barracks adjacent to the "New Holiday Club" procured by Backman.

The defendant, among other things, allegedly provided the women with condoms, generally received money directly from customers.

Backman allegedly transported the women to and from the "New Holiday Club" to various locations for customers to engage in sex acts with women at her direction.

Three victims are Chinese women who traveled to the CNMI in August 2008 based upon promises by unnamed persons of employment at a hotel or a farm on Saipan, according to the superseding indictment.

From Aug. 8, 2008 to March 2009, Backman allegedly recruited, enticed, harbored, and transported the three women by force, threats of force, fraud or coercion to engage in commercial sex acts.

On Aug. 13, 2009, Backman allegedly made a false statement in an application for permanent residence, Form I-485, submitted to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The defendant allegedly answered "No" to a question "Have you ever within the past 10 years been a prostitute or procured anyone for prostitution, or intend to engage in such activities in the future?" ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
Special Open Enrollment

STAY WELL® insurance

The only plan that pays you back!
- Provided average refund of $486 to CNMI Govt subscribers in 2011*
- Provided average rebate of $601 to CNMI Govt Subscribers for 2011*
- Only CNMI Govt health plan that did not raise rates in 2012

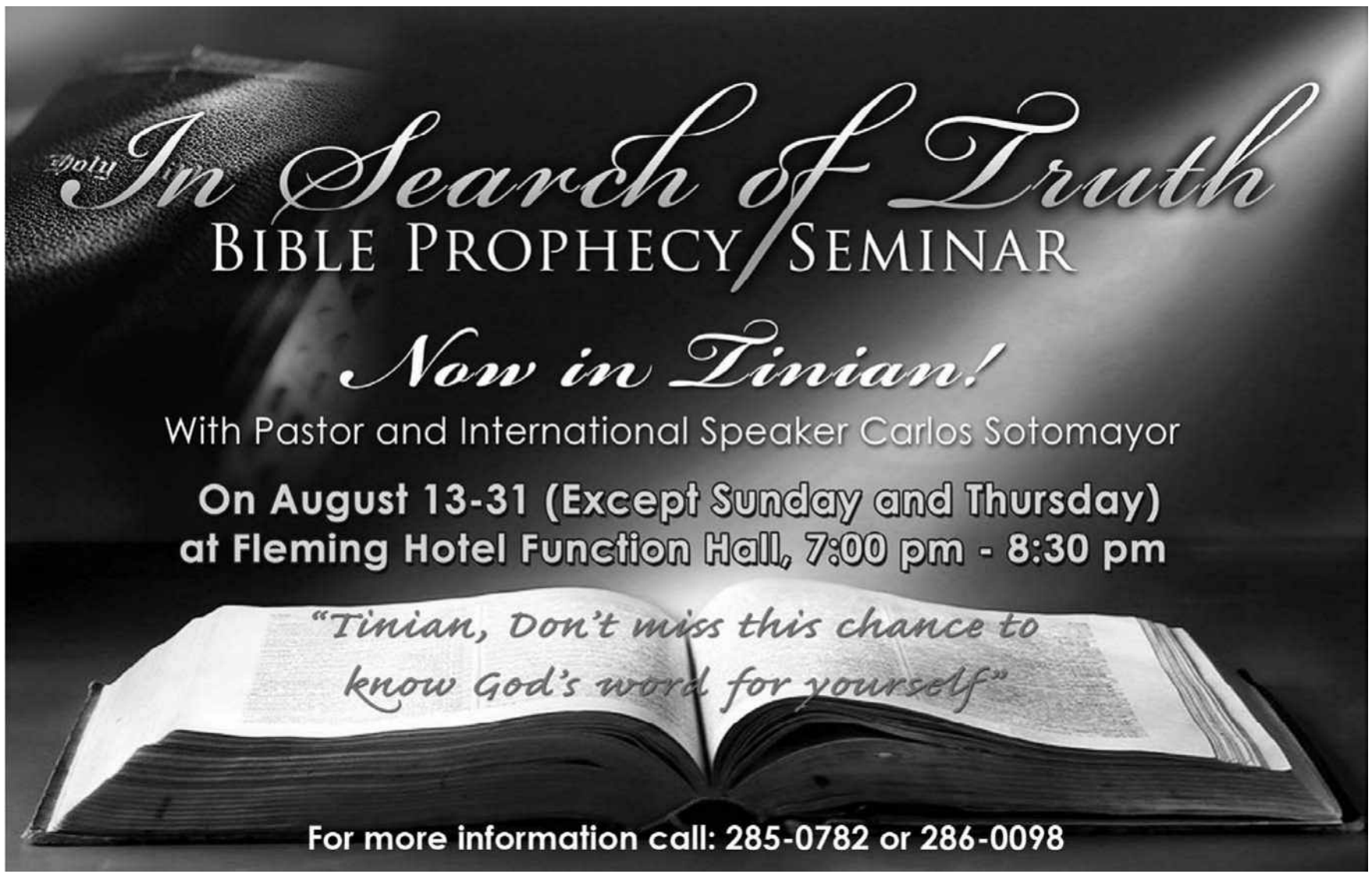
*Some conditions apply

LIMITED TIME OFFER

CLASS	ACTIVE GOVT	MEDICAL Bi-weekly	MED & DENTAL Bi-weekly
SINGLE	Silver Plan	$ 65.00	$ 91.00
	Silver Plus Plan	$ 92.00	$ 118.00
COUPLE	Silver Plan	$ 130.00	$ 182.00
	Silver Plus Plan	$ 184.00	$ 236.00
FAMILY	Silver Plan	$ 208.00	$ 265.00
	Silver Plus Plan	$ 297.00	$ 354.00

STAYWELL BENEFITS
- Only Company with a Member Refund Program
- Common Law Spouses same rate as Married Spouses
- 100% coverage for authorized off-island, inpatient care at Center of Excellence
- Out of Pocket Annual Max: Single = $1,500; Family = $4,500

STAYWELL Contact Information
Phone: 323-4260/61 • Fax: 323-4263 | Email: elplinske@staywellguam.com
FlameTree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill


Holy In Search of Truth
BIBLE PROPHECY SEMINAR
Now in Tinian!
With Pastor and International Speaker Carlos Sotomayor
On August 13-31 (Except Sunday and Thursday)
at Fleming Hotel Function Hall, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
"Tinian, Don't miss this chance to know God's word for yourself"
For more information call: 285-0782 or 286-0098

TO LEVERAGE PSS' LIMITED RESOURCES, PERSONNEL

School clustering to take effect this year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In anticipation of a more financially challenging year for the Public School System, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan approved the implementation of a new cost-saving approach to help address financial shortfalls.

She disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that PSS has formed five cluster groups that will allow the "sharing" of resources, programs, and personnel to ensure that a Head Start student would complete education requirements through high school.

"We group schools by clusters so they can leverage their resources. That means, there are some teachers who may probably move from one school to another to help out [just during the year]," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sablan

PSS has formed five clusters: three for Saipan and one cluster each for Rota and Tinian.

The northeast cluster is comprised of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Tanapag Elementary School, Kagman High School, Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, and Kagman Elementary School, along with the respective schools' Head Start programs.

The central cluster is comprised of San Vicente Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Dandan Elementary School, Marianas High School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and part of Hopwood Junior High School which was split into two cluster groups. Also included in this cluster is the Head Start program in each elementary school.

For the south cluster, it is comprised of Saipan Southern High School, San Antonio Elementary School and its Head Start, Koblerville Elementary School and its Head Start, and part of Hopwood Junior High School.

The Tinian cluster consists of Tinian Elementary School and its Head Start and Tinian Junior and Sr. High Schools. For Rota, formed into one group are Sinapalo Elementary School and its Head Start and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. and Sr. High Schools.

According to the commissioner, by clustering PSS individual schools they will have the responsibility to ensure that their students will receive complete basic education requirement from pre-kinder to high school.

To demonstrate how cluster groups will work, the commissioner said elementary teachers who are highly qualified to teach content areas in high school within their cluster group can do so. Classes in the elementary level ends earlier than the secondary level which can extend classes up to 4:30pm for the fifth period.

But she pointed out that no teachers will be put off from any classroom to substitute for any classes in other schools within the group.

"That's not the intent of the clustering [approach]. We would not take teachers out from classroom to go on substitute. The whole intent of this strategy is to leverage our resources, programs, and services," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Sablan admitted that this is the first time the methodology has been tried within PSS but she is hopeful of its positive result. By implementing this, she said, PSS can substantially save by not negatively impacting the learning for students.

The commissioner said that the clustering method has been on the PSS table since last year. After careful assessment and consultation with administrators, this will be tried this new school year.

PSS is facing a $7-million shortfall in its personnel and operation this fiscal year. The budget deficit may further worsen if a lower appropriation for public schools is approved by the Legislature for fiscal year 2013.

'Ice' trafficking defendant's motion to dismiss charges denied

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has denied a motion to dismiss the charges filed by a defendant in an "ice" trafficking case.

In a written order issued on Thursday, Govendo denied William Cabrera Jr.'s motion to dismiss one count of trafficking of controlled substance and one count of illegal possession of controlled substance.

» With court's ruling, 2 defendants sign plea agreement

Govendo also denied Cabrera's motion to suppress evidence.

The judge did not make any ruling on Cabrera's motions to compel discovery and identify informant as they are moot.

As this developed, *Saipan Tribune* learned that on Friday Cabrera and co-defendant Don Sanchez signed a plea agreement with the Office of the Attorney General. The defendants are expected to appear for a change of plea hearing today, Monday.

In May 2011, members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and detectives of the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau arrested Sanchez and Cabrera along with three other persons during anti-drug operations in Dandan.

Sanchez was tagged as "ice supplier" and Cabrera as Sanchez's drug associate.

Cabrera, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, moved the court to direct the OAG to provide him with several documents in accord with Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure 16.

Cabrera conceded that the government has provided some 46 documents as discovery, but are insufficient for him to prepare his defense in this case.

Cabrera moved the court to dismiss charges of trafficking of controlled substance and illegal possession of controlled substance.

San Nicholas argued that possession of a controlled substance is a lesser-included offense of trafficking of controlled substance.

Cabrera also moved the court to order the government to disclose the identity of the informant.

Cabrera requested the court to suppress evidence of the seizure of controlled substance being that it was a by-product of an illegal search.

San Nicholas argued that the search was illegal because the defendant was under the impression that no eavesdropping search warrant was issued.

In his order, Govendo said during the pretrial conference, it came to light that Cabrera was already in possession of some of the requested items, may not need others, and will visit the Department of Public Safety to review certain documents.

Consequently, the judge said, Cabrera's need to compel production of discovery is moot.

On the motion to dismiss, Govendo said he recognizes the distinction between possession of a controlled substance and trafficking of controlled substance, and denies defendant's motion to dismiss either count.

On the informant's issue, Govendo said the motion is moot as the government has already disclosed the informant's identity.

On the motion to compel discovery, Govendo said an eavesdropping search warrant was signed and authorized by associate judge David Wiseman on April 6, 2011.

"Therefore, the seizure of the controlled substance was not a by-product of an illegal search. Defendant's motion to suppress is denied," the judge ruled.

Detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that, on April 4, 2011 he and Detective Roque K. Camacho met a "cooperating source" who disclosed that Sanchez and drug associates are active in selling "ice" at his residence in Dandan near the 14th Station of the Cross.

Detective Castro said during their operation, the "cooperating source" managed to purchase $100 worth of "ice" from Sanchez and his brother-in-law Cabrera.

It was Cabrera who allegedly handed the "ice" to the "cooperating source."

Castro said that, on the following day, April 12, their "cooperating source" managed to buy $100 worth of "ice" again from Sanchez at his residence near the 14th Station of the Cross.

Castro said that, on May 3, 2011, he and other detectives learned that Sanchez moved to another residence in Dandan near Dandan Elementary School.

Castro said he learned that their "cooperating source" was able to buy $40 worth of "ice" from Sanchez three days before that day.

The defendants then pleaded not guilty. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES

RFP 12-01

SERVICES REQUIRED

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), a public trust of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requests proposals from interested firms to provide janitorial services for MPLT office located on 1222 Capital Hill Road, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Provide general janitorial services for the MPLT office. Interested parties can pick up the scope of work at the MPLT office or can be access at the website at www.mplt.gov.mp.

PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE

Please submit letter of interest to include monthly rate to the attention of **Barbara Reyes**, Office Manager, Marianas Public Land Trust P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Thursday, August 30, 2012.

Interested firms are welcome to conduct a survey of the site.

This public notice is also available on our website at www.mplt.gov.mp. Should you have any question or need additional information, please contact our office at 3224401/4402, Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Wednesday, August 15, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
  d. Adoption of Minutes
    i. June 21, 2012 Special Board Meeting Minutes
    ii. June 27, 2012 Special Board Meeting Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
  a. USDA RD Defaulted Loans
  b. Delinquency Reports by Island (Saipan, Tinian & Rota)
  c. HOME Loans for Board's Approval
  d. CDBG Update
    i. Proposed Koblerville Jr. High School
    ii. On-going Project Updates
  e. Section 8 Waitlist by Island
  f. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Termination of Section 8/Multifamily Assistance
  g. Utility Allowance (UA) Analysis
IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORT
  a. Tinian Report
  b. Rota Report
V. FISCAL AFFAIRS
  a. Financial Reports
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. OTHER MATTERS
  a. Tottotville Update (Legal)
  b. Deloitte & Touche Audit Exit Conference
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NELLY DLC. BUMANGLAG, Plaintiff, -v- **LINDA DLC. TOVES, CONSOLATION DLC. TOVES, ANA C. DELA CRUZ, ANTONIO C. DELA CRUZ, RAMON C. DELA CRUZ, JOSEPHINE P. DELA CRUZ, and the Estate of MANUEL T. DELA CRUZ, deceased** Defendants.	]]]]]]]]]]]]]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 00-275** **FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Judgment issued by the Court in this matter on January 26, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Tract No. 21729, situated in I-Denni, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 44, 660 square meters, more or less, as particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2038/72, registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 7912, dated January 23, 1979.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 24th day of July, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff, -v- **SUZETTE O. SASAMOTO and FELIX SASAMOTO, JR.,** Defendants.	]]]]]]]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0514** **THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 21, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1508, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, and containing an area of 780 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011/G 30, the original of which was recorded on May 11, 1994, as Document No. 94-1218, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, August 24, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of July, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Presentation on Chamorro language tomorrow

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council cordially invites the public to attend a presentation on the Chamorro language that will be held at the American Memorial Park Theater tomorrow, Aug. 14, from 6pm to 8:00pm.

In their talk, titled "Community-based Scientific Research on the Chamorro Language," Manuel F. Borja, Sandra Chung, and Matthew Wagers will examine what community members and scientists can accomplish on the Chamorro language by working together.

The trio will reflect on two recent collaborative projects on Chamorro that explore the possibility of an online version of the revised Chamorro Dictionary and investigate how Chamorro speakers understand the Chamorro language.

Borja is a member of the community-based organization Inetnon Åmot yan Kutturan Natibu. Chung and Wagers are linguists at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

This presentation, a part of the council's ongoing Community Lecture Series, is free of charge and open to the public.

Please contact council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this upcoming event or visit the council's website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Today's jury selection cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "RS" that the jury selection scheduled for today, Aug. 13, 2012, at 8:30am in Courtroom 205A is hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact Deputy Clerk Rosie T. Ada at the Superior Court at 236-9700 ext. 771. You may also contact 236-9765. ***(PR)***

GTC important school events/dates:

■ **Parent orientation:** There will be a parent orientation for new and returning parents to communicate changes and expectations for SY 2012-13. Orientation will be on Friday, Aug. 17, 2012 at 5pm (approximately an hour). School supply listing and free meal application will be available.

■ **Kindergarten Reading First Assessment (RFA) Screening Test:** All in-coming kindergarten students will be tested with the RFA by his/her kindergarten teacher. The screening test is approximately 15-20 minutes. Scheduled testing time and date have been made with parents. Please do not miss your scheduled testing date. For your date and time, you may call, 237-3121 and ask for Ms. Angie. RFA testing days are Aug. 20-22, 2012 between 8:30am and 11:30am.

■ **Kindergarten orientation:** There will be an orientation for all kindergarten parents and students. This is an opportunity for you and your child to meet your child's kinder teacher and answer any questions you may have. Expectations about home-school partnership will also be shared. Kinder orientation is on Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012 beginning at 5pm to 6pm.

■ **First Day of School:** Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012. Classes start promptly at 8am and ends at 2pm.

■ **Back to School Open House:** Friday, Sept. 7, 2012 at 5pm. We will convene in the cafeteria and then disperse into your child's classroom.

■ **School Supply List for Kindergarten to 6th Grade:** Is available at National Office Supply and Modern Stationery. ***(PR)***

UOG course: Changing trends in the hospitality industry

Registration is open for Changing Trends in the Hospitality Industry, level 1. Taught by UOG professor Fred Schumann, this 15 contact hour course can be used to satisfy training requirements for those businesses that hold Qualifying Certificates. This online course is designed for tourism industry employees who seek advancement to the supervisory or management level and runs Aug. 27-31, 2012. The cost is $180. Register online at http://www.regonline.com/Hospitality_Online. For more information contact cmoore@uguam.uog.edu or call 735-2600/1. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 23rd birthday to the most loving, caring, supportive, and the best husband in the whole wide world, Craig Peter Camacho Calvo, who is celebrating his special day today, Aug 12. We wanna wish you a happy birthday and many more to come. May you have a wonderful day and God bless you. We love you so much. From your wife Tinie and Baby Girl Esper.

AS PERSISTENT RAINS OCCUR ON SAIPAN, TINIAN

NWS, EMO issue flood advisory

The U.S. National Weather Service in Guam yesterday issued an urban and small stream flood advisory for Saipan and Tinian as the two islands experienced daylong persistent rain showers.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial advised the public to be alert when driving for flooding near road and near zero visibility in torrential rain.

The Emergency Management Office said boats could expect reduced visibility to less than one mile and dangerous lightning with the strongest showers.

As of 5pm yesterday, Saipan experienced scattered rains. Minor flooding was observed along the shoulder of the highways.

NWS said satellite shows a large area heavy showers over Saipan and Tinian that likely continue another couple of hours.

NWS said some locations most at risk for flooding are San Jose on Tinian and villages of Saipan to the west of Lake Susupe and in the Garapan and Tanapag areas.

NWS and EMO cautioned the public that excessive runoff from heavy rainfall will cause flooding of waterways and ponding of water in urban areas, streets, and low-lying spots. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SSHS sets important dates for start of school year

Saipan Southern High School will hold its first day of classes for school year 2012-2013 on Sep. 4, 2012.

Students must be on campus by 8am. Classes starts at 8:30am and dismissal is at 3pm. All new students enrolling at SSHS for school year 2012-2013 must complete and submit a registration form.

Registration forms are available in the registrar's office or main office. All returning students who attended SSHS last year must return all textbooks and settle all obligations with the school, before you can pick up your class reschedule.

Schedules are to be picked up at the counseling office and are as follows:

■ 12th grade: Aug. 22, 2012 9am-4pm

■ 11th grade: Aug. 23 9am-4pm,

■ 10th grade Aug. 24 9am-4pm.

All transfer and new students enrolling at SSHS SY2012-2013 in grades 10,11, and 12 are required to attend an orientation on Aug. 28 from 1pm to 3pm with their parents or legal guardians.

No students will be allowed to attend the orientation without parents or legal guardians in attendance. Incoming freshman students orientation will be held on two different session to accommodate parents or legal guardians work schedules. Both sessions are on Aug. 28 from 9am to 11am and 1pm to 3pm.

For more information, call SSHS principal Jesse Tudela at 237-3702 or the main office at 664-4000/ 237-3710. ***(PR)***

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
SAIPAN
SINCE 1996
THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE
17TH ANNUAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS:
2011 SPONSORS
Platinum
LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
DFS GALLERIA
Gold
Tan Holdings
AON
CHIVAS REGAL 12
SCS Saipan Computer Services
IT&E
DELTA
Bank of Hawaii
NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
NIKEGOLF
Customers First TRIPLE J MOTORS NEW CARS · USED CARS · PARTS · SERVICE
MICROL TOYOTA
Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU
Silver
Asiana Airlines ■ IP&E ■ Jack Hardy Images ■ Marianas Variety ■ Marpac
Nic Health (Express) ■ Pepsi/Miller ■ Power 99 / The Kat FM
Bronze
Beach Gal ■ Chanel ■ Christian Dior ■ GPPC ■ Hana Tour ■ Hans Trade Catering ■ Kautz Glass
KKMP ■ KCNM / KZMI ■ Niizeki ■ NorthPac Corporation ■ Organic Natural Gift ■ Triple B Forwarders
Saipan Marianas Noni ■ Taylor Made - Adidas Golf (DFS Galleria) ■ World of Wine (DFS Galleria)
Donors
Herman's Modern Bakery ■ Rota Water ■ Hard Rock Cafe ■ Calvo's Insurance ■ Cargo Express
G4S ■ Rota Resort ■ T&G Airconditioning & Refrigeration ■ Tropical Laundry
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS

MLSC hosts trial advocacy training

Micronesian Legal Services Corp. is hosting training by the National Institute of Trial Advocacy in its offices throughout Micronesia.

MLSC offices in Majuro, Marshall Islands; Kosrae, Chuuk, and Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia; and the Northern Marianas each had one or more days of trial advocacy practice in intensive workshops during the past two weeks.

The MLSC offices in Yap and Palau will have this training in the coming week.

The NITA trainers are Michael and JoAnne Roake, who live in New Mexico. Michael Roake is the director of NITA's Pacific Region Trial and Deposition programs, and JoAnne Roake has been a faculty member with NITA for many years. Both are energized. Each share many practical tips. Each provide both group and individualized comments.

The training in the CNMI occurred last Friday, Aug. 10, at the Guma Hustitia. The training was top-notch and intensive, on topics that included depositions, direct examination, cross-examination, and ethics, among other things. Participants each had time practicing skills on deposition, direct and cross-examination in a mock trial scenario with a case problem that had been provided ahead of time.

MLSC staff who participated in the training included Marianas Office attorneys Jane Mack and Dimitri Varmazis, Central Office acting director Ben Weber, and MLSC board of directors member Lucia Blanco-Maratita. Weber has participated in the training in the other sessions throughout Micronesia, so acted as a witness in the Saipan training, along with MLSC paralegal Frank Rogopes, and MLSC summer law intern Siniva Bennett. Paralegals Maria Muna Polly Anne Sablan and secretary Lolita Nazaire also participated in set-up, registration, and as observers/stand-by witnesses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Mike Roake with attorneys Jennifer Dockter, Brad Huesman, Loren Sutton, and Richard Pierce.

The training was specifically arranged for the benefit of MLSC staff, but because it is generally applicable and useful in all areas by trial practitioners, each office has opened its training to other participants. In the CNMI, a limited number of attorneys were invited to attend. The Bar Association CLE coordinator, Deb Fisher, promoted the program here and there was more interest than available slots for attendance, so the Bar Association held a raffle. The lucky 13 who attended the program at minimal cost (to cover a light lunch) were David G. Banes, Charles E. Brasington, Deborah E. Fisher, Nancy Gottfried, Braddock J. Huesman, Teresa K. Kim, James B. McAllister, Brien Sers Nicholas, Richard W. Pierce, Loren A. Sutton, Christopher M. Timmons, Colin M. Thompson, and Michael A. White. Attorney Jennifer Dockter participated as a volunteer witness.

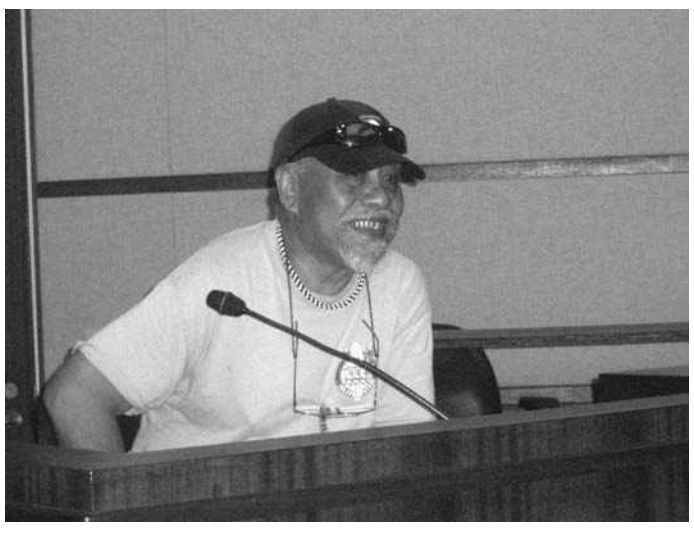
The NITA training was made possible by a Department of Interior grant, about which MLSC was notified by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (MP-Ind).

MLSC applied for the DOI grant and, according to MLSC acting director Ben Weber, it was "an amazingly efficient process" after the application was submitted. The training has been so successful that we look forward to more opportunities for such grant-funded learning. ***(PR)***

National Institute of Trial Advocacy trainers JoAnne Roake, left, and Michael Roake during last Friday's training at the Guma Hustitia.

JoAnne Roake with attorney Nancy Gottfried.

MLSC acting director Ben Weber, left, as mock witness with JoAnne Roake and Nancy Gottfried.



Micronesian Legal Services Corp. paralegal Frank Rogopes served as a mock witness.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 13, 2001

NMIRF to maintain overseas investments

Despite the losses being incurred by the off-island investments of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund and the growing amount that the CNMI government owes the Fund, the Fund has no plans yet of liquidating its off-island portfolio to pay for annuities. This was stressed by Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres, who said in an interview Friday that due diligence requires him and the Board of Trustees to first exhaust all ways and means to find the money for its pensioners. "If push comes to shove, we will first have to sue the CNMI government to compel it to pay its obligations to the Fund. Of course, a lawsuit in itself is already a last recourse for us. We have already come to an agreement with the government and they have been keeping their end of the bargain," said Torres.

Banks asked to invest more on housing loans

In fresh efforts to beef up the CNMI government's housing program, the Commonwealth Development Authority has started negotiation with private banks and financial institutions, encouraging them to intensify their long-term loan packages for homes. Board Chair John S. Tenorio said some of the banking institutions in the Northern Marianas have already pledged to upgrade their portfolio earmarked for long-term housing loans but only up to a limited amount. Mr. Tenorio explained that private financial companies normally look at loan agreements that stretch up to 20-25 years are too risky especially on the residential side due to prevailing impression that there is not enough market for housing units in the CNMI.

Aug. 13, 2002

CPA enforces tighter cost-cutting program

The significant slowdown in airport and seaport activities is forcing the Commonwealth Ports Authority to implement additional belt-tightening measures. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said, however, that the cost-cutting measures will not hamper airport and seaport operations nor will it affect safety and security programs. Salas explained that the cost-cutting measures will be instituted to sustain the ports authority's effective management of all airports and harbors across the Northern Marianas on a 24-7 basis. Under the new austerity program, the ports authority will stop hiring new employees. This includes replacements for vacated positions.

USDA to assess damage to Rota's farming sector

Following President Bush's declaration of Rota as a major disaster area due to the destruction caused by typhoon Chata'an over a month ago, another federal agency-the U.S. Department of Agriculture-is set to conduct a damage assessment on the island's crops this week. Aside from the aid expected from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, from where over $1.4 million in disaster assistance is assured for the island, Rota may also receive possible assistance from the USDA. Virginia Villagomez, Gov. Juan N. Babauta's authorized representative, said a USDA representative stationed on Guam is arriving on Rota this week to meet with local farmers and the island's resident director for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Vicente Atalig.

Aug. 13, 2003

Babauta explains glacial pace in changing procurement regs

Although the administration has tagged the need to overhaul the CNMI government's procurement process as a priority, Gov. Juan N. Babauta explained that implementing the needed changes is taking much longer than they would like it to be because of dilatory processes that are built into the system. "It's inherent in the system. If there's a problem, it's in the regulations; if not in the regulations, it's in the law.[and the process of inserting these changes] is the classic definition of bureaucracy. However, when you don't [follow] that, you get accused of not following the regulations," Babauta told reporters yesterday. Procurement processes that are bound by law can only be changed by the Legislature, which Babauta said takes time. "They [lawmakers] can debate issues for months on end."

FEMA releases some $154K to utility firm

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said it is finally receiving actual reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for expenses incurred on Rota during Supertyphoon Pongsona last December. CUC acting comptroller Ed Williams said FEMA has released over $154,100 in payment to the utility firm. Further, he said that based on his communication with Vicky Villagomez, the governor's authorized representative on FEMA matters, the federal agency has also approved the payment to CUC for project worksheets totaling about $171,300.

Pacific

Solomons minister allegedly granted licenses without approval

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—If the Company Haus website is anything official to rely on, the Minister of Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration of the Solomon Islands had made a grave mistake—an unforgivable lie.

Elijah Doro Muala in an attempt to clear the air yesterday on hiscontroversial decision to award Pacific Exporters Limited (PEL) to export cocoa said PEL is a joint venture Company with majority local shares—51 percent local and 49 percent foreign.

The Solomon Star yesterday investigated the Minister's statement and came up with the opposite: PEL is a foreign owned company with no local shares.

The Solomon Star found out with the Registrar of Companies that PEL was initially registered under the name Carpenter Exporters Limited on April 16, 2012.

The Solomon Star found out that one of the two local directors Michael Maina (not a shareholder) changed the name to Pacific Exporter Limited (PEL) on May 3, 2012 with the Registrar of Companies as was shown on the Company Haus website.

It was further revealed that PEL only has one shareholder and it is foreign owned.

The total of 5,000 shares is owned by MH Cash & Carry Supermarket Limited.

Further search for the ownership of MH Cash & Carry Supermarket Limited generated a foreign company called WR Carpenters (PNG) Limited and only has one shareholder in possession of the 100,000 shares.

WR Carpenters (PNG) Limited does not exist in the Solomon Islands as shown on the company's Foreign Investment Certificate Number 001319 and confirmed by the Company Haus.

This means Carpenter Exports Limited now PEL, is solely owned by MH Cash & Carry Supermarket Limited which is owned by WR Carpenters (PNG) Limited, a foreign company operating outside of the Solomon Islands.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Fiji urged to pass laws protecting residents with HIV/AIDS

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—The Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation (PIAF) has renewed calls for the speeding up of legislation in Fiji and the region that will protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. PIAF has been advocating for all Pacific Island countries to have local legislation on the prevention of HIV as it has been proven to be most effective. The call follows the reversal of a decision by a high school in Pennsylvania, USA to open its doors to a previously rejected HIV positive teenager. "This is a classic example after 30 years of calls that the virus (HIV) cannot be transmitted by the presence of a person living with HIV in a school setting there are still unnecessary fear causing these bad decisions," said PIAF's legal trainer Laitia Tamata. Only Fiji, PNG and Ponhpei, a state in the Federated States of Micronesia have bills protecting PLHIV. Tamata said the pseudonym, Abraham Smith, used for the protection of the privacy of the teenager was also included in the national HIV Decree.

Temaru slams rumors over replacing Tahiti hotel with casino

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—French Polynesia's president Oscar Temaru has spoken out against casino plans, warning that he will move away should one be set up in the territory. Mr. Temaru made the comment to the Nouvelles de Tahiti newspaper amid reports that a casino could help save the Sofitel Maeva Beach Hotel which will close in three months. He says a hidden force is behind the idea to turn the loss-making hotel into a casino. The hotel chain's regional director, Thierry de Jaham, said the hotel's losses amounted to more than 13 million US dollars since 2006. Arrival numbers have fallen sharply since 2000 while taxes and wages as well as energy costs have gone up. The 40-year old hotel has 105 employees, whose future is yet to be determined as some may find work at other of the chain's hotels.

PNG Rabaul queen report to be released by month's end

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, will be revealing the report findings into the sinking of the Rabaul Queen before the end of August. In February, the ferry sank in rough conditions sailing from Kimbe to Lae with at least 140 passengers drowning. A Commission of Inquiry in April and May looked into the circumstances surrounding the disaster. It heard allegations of arrogance, apathy, complacency and incompetence from the company and captain of the ship.

July 23, 2012

TO: LYDIA R. SASO and RYO SASO

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated August 24, 2006, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. H-221-3-6 (formerly Lot H-221-3, part of original H-221), situated in San Vicente Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,511 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2137/86, the original of which was registered on July 10, 1986, as Document No. 86-1389, at the Land Registry, Saipan

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: August 24, 2006; $17,523.00

(c) Amount due for principal: $571.24 as of June 1, 2012

(d) Amount due for interest: $4,009.92 as of June 1, 2012

(e) Daily accruing interest: $4.14

If the principal, interest, and late charges $4,581.16 as of June 1, 2012, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un Komple i kontratan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Agusto dia 24, 2006, ni afabobot i Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) i deskripsion tano ni ma empeñen (mortgaged)"

Sitio Numeru H-221-3-6 (estaba Sito Numeru H-221-3, patte gi sitio numeru H-221), ni gaigi San Vicente Village, Saipan, Islas Marianas, San Kattan, ni ha konsiste un aria 1,511 quadrao metro, mas pat menus, mas partikulat ma diskribi gi Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2137/86, i orihinat ni ma rehistra gi Julio 10, 1986 komo Document No. 86-1389 gi Land Registry, Saipan.

(b) i kantida yan i fechan este na debi yan empepeña: Agusto dia 24, 2006; $17,523.00

(c) Kantida un debi para principat: $571.24 asta ki June 1, 2012

(d) Kantida un debi para interes: $4,009.92 asta ki June 1, 2012

(e) Interes kada dia: $4.14

Yangin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $4,581.16, asta ki Junio dia 1, 2012, yan i reasonable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe esta na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi i propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-na pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infotfotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai ni henta information pot i dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

The NOW SALE

PAY it. FIX it. GET it. DO it.

LIMITED TIME OFFER STARTING AUGUST 12

PAYANYDAY® PERSONAL LOAN

5.99% APR* Fixed FOR 5 YEARS On a $10,000 Loan (with $50 preparation fee)

NOW'S THE TIME TO GET IT DONE.
Stop by any First Hawaiian Bank branch or call 1-800-403-7167 for more information or to apply.

Service. Solutions. Security. Yes we care.

First Hawaiian Bank

fhb.com Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan LauLau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

* The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 5.99% is for new approved personal loan applications received from 8/12/12 to 8/31/12 with a principal amount of $10,050 and a term of 60 months. Loans with other principal amounts and terms are available, but the APR could be different. The minimum loan amount is $2,500. However, for loan terms greater than 36 months, minimum loan amount must be $9,301. There is a one-time documentation preparation fee of $50.00, which will be added to the principal balance of the loan. For a 60-month loan of $10,050 at 5.99% APR, you will have 60 monthly principal and interest payments of $193.30. Offer subject to credit approval. This offer not available in Hawaii and not for Business or Real Estate Loans. Refinances of existing First Hawaiian Bank credit cards, personal loans or lines-of-credit do not qualify for the offer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 191

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Paul Ryan choice

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) is Mitt Romney's Al Gore, a policy wonk who brings legislative experience and seriousness of purpose to the ticket. He is, in other words, no Sarah Palin. But Ryan is also the symbol of something more: a commitment to a particularly conservative vision of a smaller federal government, a scaled-back safety net and a lower tax burden. By choosing Ryan, Romney answered the critics (particularly on the right) who questioned whether his campaign had a vision for the future. If there were voters who harbored any doubt about the magnitude of the choice they face in November, they should no longer.

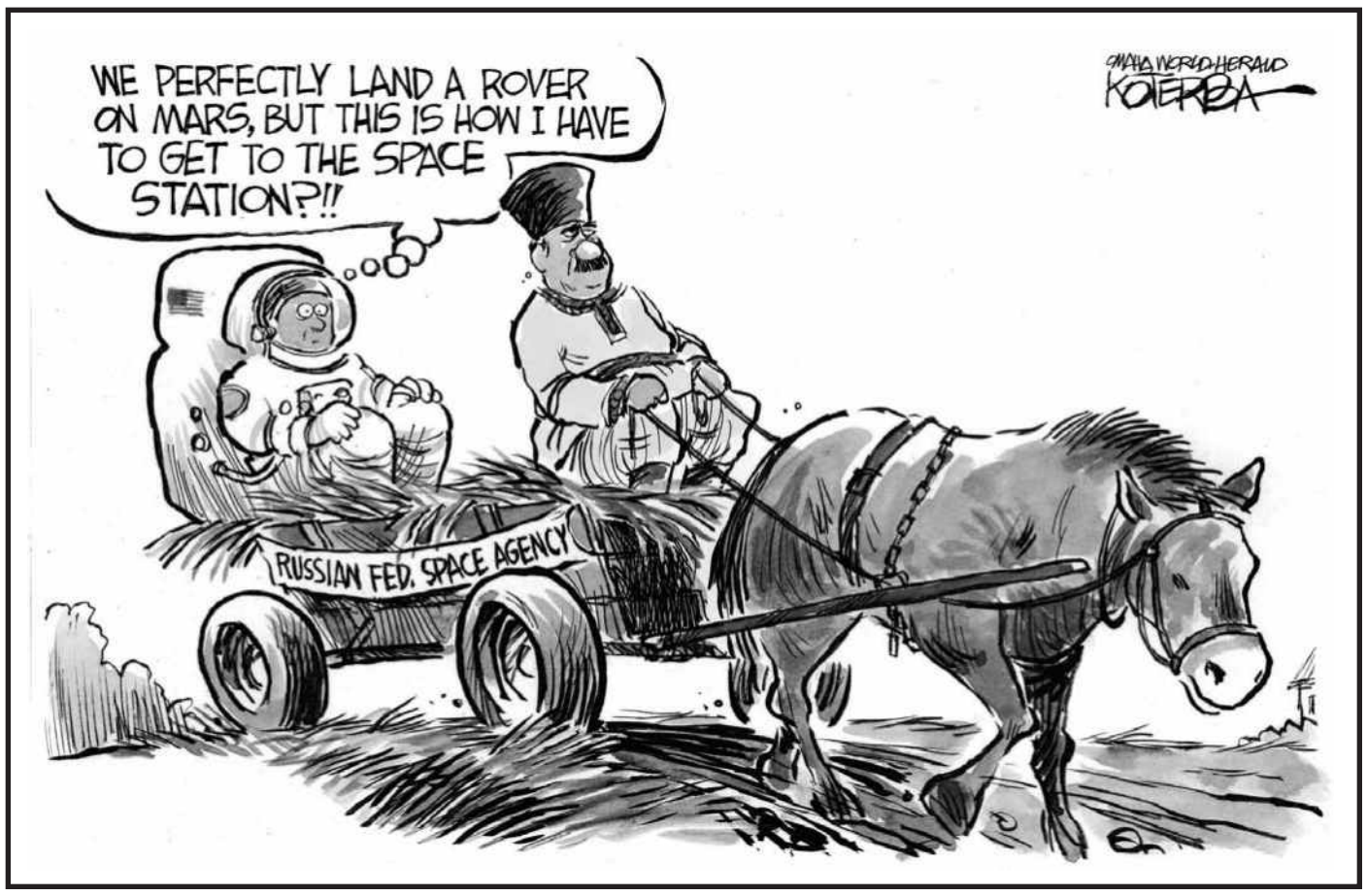
Although Romney has taken positions on an array of issues, the race so far has largely been a backward-looking and bile-spewing affair. The media deserve some of the blame for that, but so do the campaigns and their "super PAC" allies. In choosing Ryan, Romney may hope to shift the campaign from personal attacks to debates about fiscal policy. That's quixotic, but it would be a welcome change.

Ryan's presence on the ticket helps sharpen the contrast between President Obama's so-called "balanced" approach, which combines tax hikes and spending restraints, and Romney's ambition to rein in entitlements and discretionary programs while cutting taxes in the hope of spurring growth. Indeed, Ryan makes the GOP ticket more stubbornly ideological and less pragmatic. Ryan had the chance as a member of the White House deficit commission to back a bipartisan plan in 2010 to repair the federal government's finances, but he voted no because he wanted to roll back Obama's healthcare reform law and make a bigger dent in Medicare and Medicaid. The proposal fell a few votes short of the supermajority needed to send it to Congress.

One risk for Romney is that Ryan is a leader of what may be the most unloved political institution in America. Another is that, rather than having a serious debate about Washington's fiscal mess, the Obama campaign will simply unleash the stinging and often hyperbolic critiques that Democrats have made of Ryan's budgets. We don't trust Ryan's tax-cutting math, and we're skeptical of his proposals to transform Medicare into limited insurance subsidies and to cap federal spending on Medicaid, but we agree that neither program is sustainable without reforms. And it was probably just a matter of time before the Obama campaign loosed those attacks on Romney anyway, given his praise for Ryan's plan.

The other suggestion Romney makes by picking Ryan is that the Republican strategy will turn less on attracting independents than turning out loyalists. The brainy Ryan should help Romney shore up his conservative base and motivate tea party voters. That's because Romney's pick says the race isn't about governing, it's about changing government.

© 2012, Los Angeles Times


WE PERFECTLY LAND A ROVER ON MARS, BUT THIS IS HOW I HAVE TO GET TO THE SPACE STATION?!!
RUSSIAN FED. SPACE AGENCY
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA

Cry, my beloved country

"Cry, my beloved country, for we have been forsaken by our leaders! Daily we are increasingly besieged by internal problems. We have an illness and cannot correct it. We feel forgotten. Sadly our leaders talk too often on how to benefit themselves, not our country. Why have we been abandoned? Where are our leaders' will and courage to solve our problems? Cry, by beloved country."

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The above is a plea in the hope that you, gentlemen, and ladies of the Legislature, will read and consider. Yes, our beloved CNMI is in dire straits, but you are failing to give us guidance in this hour of need. We stand and wait for you to show us what to do to recover from this dilemma. Perhaps you do not know any better than we do as to what course of action to take. But we become even more saddened when we learn that some of you are trying to benefit personally at our expense.

After this past week's disgraceful happenings involving several of the leading lawmakers of our country—one has escaped and the others are still around, it is vital to remind ourselves what we have become. Remember the further we move away from doing what is right into a society of "I am above the law" attitude, the closer we edge towards the brink of disaster.

Being a politician is a duty, not a job. As a good soldier pledges his duty to his country, each of you must pledge your duty the same way. You were elected because we believed and trusted you. Of all the virtues "trust" is one of the most important ones. And to betray the trust bestowed in you by us, the people, is one of the most heinous crimes you can commit against your fellow men. What does a man have if he does not have trust and respect?

You are the catalyst and hope for leading us back to prosperity and dignity. Read the following pledge and then cut it out and place it squarely in the middle of your desk and glance at it daily:

> "I have been chosen and given the trust to represent the people of the CNMI. My duty is to help the people. I pledge to place this duty above all else. I shall seek only what is good for the general public. I will never sacrifice my duty for personal gain—so help me God!"

It amazes me when you, esteemed ladies and gentlemen, forget or do not fully grasp this basic concept. Your actions and attitudes set the tone for all of us citizens. You are the beginning of all activity for the community by the laws you create and in the manner in which you conduct yourselves. You are the backbone for economic development and for social harmony. You bring out in us either desires to do great things or to be a nation of beggars. In plain words:

You—the Legislature—possesses tremendous power over these islands and over our lives.

I want to share the following message. As you read it remember the following words: I—Integrity, C—Compassion, A—Accountability, R—Respect, E—Excellence. Together they spell I CARE!

Integrity means doing the right thing for the right reason and in the right way. Never act in a way that will cause doubt or concern. Never sacrifice ethical or moral obligations. Exhibit consistency between words and actions.

Compassion is to be attuned to the personal, emotional and spiritual needs of our citizens and of each other.

Accountability take full responsibility for personal decisions and actions. Become stewards of the community's resources that have been entrusted to your care.

Respect cannot not be bought but must be earned. Treat everybody with equality and with sincerity.

Excellence strives always to do the best and with dignity. Accept no excuses for failure.

These are the qualities that heroes and leaders are made of. Our country cries out to you in this time of need. Do not forsake us! You must lead by your courageous actions. Look in the mirror and proudly and truthfully say: I AM LEADING!

If this sounds preachy, than damn it, it is! It is sad that we must be constantly reminded of these virtues and responsibility. We trust and respect you. This is why we voted for you. You told us you would work in our behalf. Were they lies?

Instead of being a run-of-the-mill politician who seeks office for the thrill of it or for the power and notoriety of it, become a statesman! The statesman's goal is to lead by examples and challenges. His duty is to country first and last. The statesman doesn't seek public office for personal gain or because it's the only job available. And he certainly is not in it for the money.

Lawrence W. Reed in one of his essays best explains the qualities that define a statesman:

> "The statesman takes time our from a life of accomplishment to serve the general welfare. He stands for a principled vision, not for what he thinks citizens will fall for. He is well informed about the vicissitudes of human nature, the lessons of history, the role of ideas, and the economics of the marketplace. He is a truth-seeker, which means he is more likely to do what is right than what may be politically popular at the moment…. He elevates public discussion because he knows what he is talking about. He does not engage in class warfare or in divisive or partisan tactics that pull people apart. He does not cynically buy votes with the money his taxes take from others. He may even judge his success in office as much by how many laws he repealed as by how many he passed."

See CRY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Treasured Tango in Toronto

By JAIME R. VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.

The "Last Tango in Paris", a 1972 film of Bernardo Bertolucci (Ultimo tango a Parigi), is an art film that portrayed an American widower Paul (played by Marlon Brando) in midlife crisis over the suicide of his wife. He takes up a relationship with a Parisian mademoiselle Jeanne (Maria Schneider), bumping into each other while checking on an apartment; they kept a totally anonymous sexual liaison in the apartment, until Paul decided to live in facts rather than fiction. The Parisian woman was alarmed, and Paul's move proved fatal.

There is great emotional expenditure in the imagined lives that we live, until the truth bumps us into the light of day, and the carefully constructed fantasies of our imagination begin to unravel and fall apart. In politics and personal biography, truth often comes as a villain and foe, rather than as a welcomed friend. We are either on denial, or flying high on a flight of fancy!

The earthy image of the tango came to us on a stopover in Buenos Aires airport on a flight to Santiago, Chile from Rio de Janeiro. Argentina's airport security marched in goose steps reminiscent of Der Fuhrer's stormtroopers of the Third Reich in the late '70s, a reaction to Juan Peron and Evita's perceived misguided popularity among the masses.

At the airport, we saw a poster of a lady leaning back with red rose clenched between her teeth in the arms of man with whom she was dancing the tango. Raw and powerful, the Argentine dance of proletarian roots in Rio de Plata combines European and African music, beat, and moves, a rather unique concoction that has since flashed across global dance floors. The fear of the gun muzzle was replaced by argentine verve!

Our tango image returned when we reunited with high school classmates in North America. On its 52nd anniversary this month, INHS60 met at the Waterfront Hotel in Burlington, Canada, by the shores of Lake Ontaria an hour away from the mist of Niagara Falls. I had been gung-ho on being present there, having missed the 50th gathering in the old hometown of Laoag City two years before. We didn't make it.

What has been kept alive, however, is the promise of a tango between a cuddly diminutive classmate and I, with no less than a red rose clenched between teeth while we would lean into a dip from an engaging abrazo. Never mind that our legs may no longer execute the fast clip of the staccato steps that sometimes is mixed with the long drawn 2-4/4-4 slide, nor could our arms hold a body leant outward for the dip. The dance is a movement of the body with the feet following and supporting where the body leads. All of these are fun to picture in the mind.

Our class president and his wife did get on the ball in Toronto and found a red rose for our dance partner, who gamely promised to keep it pressed in her diary. The class plans to meet again next year in Hawaii, and though the class numbered more than a hundred at G-day, close to a fourth have said their 10-4s. In the sixth decade of our existence, our bite is often more ambitious than our chew! I might finally get the diminutive one to the dance floor, though by then, the tango will have given way to the less demanding Hula!

In a sense, this reflection is less about Tango and Toronto as about the decision to dance one's life away! Dance is the language of revolution, avers *Yes* magazine in its latest issue, as it explores why the word "vagina" associated with lust is more feared and despised than "scud missile" and "plutonium".

Anthony Quinn in the movie version of Kazantzakis' *Zorba the Greek* plays the main character next to a Greek-English novelist, the narrator, played by Alan Bates. Bates' character wants to revive a lignite mine he inherited in Crete, and accepts Zorba's proferred help. They need timber to keep the mineshaft from collapsing during earth's tremors. After securing the local monk's permission to source from its forest, they tried to cable the wood down the slopes. The cable collapses on the third attempt and with it, the mine's hopes, but instead of falling into despair, the formerly cold Bates asks Zorba to teach him how to dance the sirtaki.

The plot is more complicated than our telling but the 1964 classic movie and its haunting line-dance music played in the santuri, deeply struck us and got stuck in our heartstrings.

Well, they are not dancing the sirtaki in China, but parks in the summer gather many folks in colorful traditional attires, and for two hours after p.m., they flap and swirl their fans away into the night as drums beat, wind instruments blare, and the pluck of string instruments are amplified.

In the summer of our sunset years, we might have missed the tango in Toronto, but the Pinoy bamboo dance tinikling is in our blood, and like the birds that dance in between the flapping branches of bamboo in the fierce winds, we shall continue to tap our toes, come what may.

Many surrender to the commercial call of the times and regulate lives on sheer economic goals. Others are diehard practitioners in the political game of power grab. We take the wisdom of the ancients who long ago, from the hora to the cha-cha, the tango and the Dong Bei da yang ge, discerned that the human spirit expresses itself in the dance.

Shall we dance?

Na'mañau Na Katma

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Ha palo'pu' hit un' namatman na katma, kulan mohon finatton matan pagyu ni tumogtug papa' enteru filan islas siha guine. Mampos katma yan silensiu na esta hinatsa i humidu ya mas maipe plaset i señgsoñg siha.

Todu man-a'afaisen haf" guaha. Kontodu guaka gi kelat manmarikonose kau ti man-impirarau gi sagan niha. Gigon sige manesalau ya duru man-koñkurahe, señat na guaha lametgot na linau para u fatoigue hit. Lau gaige na man-deskakansa gi papa' troñku.

I tautau siha gi señgsoñg otdinariu lokue' kinalamten niha. Lau guaha taduñg siñienten niniha na tailaye i suena na katma ni pumalo'pu' i tanu'. Sin inbatgu, makontinua hinanau niha.

Dispues mahuñgog na mampos poduñg i rinikohen tax miyon pot miyon pesus. Estague' 'nai ha tutuhon i publiku rumepara haf" na inipos katma i tanu'. Era, i signifikasioña katma pot mamamaila' un' didog na pinadese 'nai megai para u fan fiñiñot lina'la' niha. Masiente dispues i sigiente:

1. Taya' amot gi hospitat sa' ti manae' CHC kabales fondu para operasioña.
2. Taya' amot para i rumisisibe medicaid sa' tai fondu i gobietnu para u kubre obligasioña gi papa' i programa prontu.
3. U para un' dia i pagamienton man-ritirau sa' tai fondu i gobietnu para u apase dibiña gi Fondu kase $332 miyon pesus.
4. Lamegai ahensia ti nahoñg fondun niha para i 2013 na sakan pottanmoneda (budget) deste PSS, NMC yan kontodu medical referral.
5. Menos mas salape' scholarship sa' maribaha dañkulu i rinikohen kontribusion tax.
6. Katkuet un' fana' chumichichi' sa' brok (broke) i gobietnu.
7. Kontodu buente maribahan empleau ti chagu yan pa'gu umasusede.

Fitme Na Pogse' Natibu

Gi fina' gotpe, chinatsaga 'sino destrosiun ira, listu i natibu manatan haye mas numesessita ayudu. Ha tulusgue' yan nina'iña ya hanae' i mamadedese. Boluntariamente lokue' listu para u fan ayuda gi mana' katman pinadesen tineteka na familia.

Estague' un' likidu na patte gi tradision man-natibu ni esta pa'gu sumen metgot gi entalu tautau-ta. Diberas, namagof i sensian inapinitiye gi chatsaga na che'luta 'sino familiata. Sumen nama'agim sensia i tradision ina'ayuda gi halom mattiru siha.

Tatnai in' repara na maseha seriosu inadisgustun miyu yan parehumu, ensegidas de umasoda' hamyu gi chagu' na lugat, maliñgu i minala'et ya umarikohe hamyu para fina' gimen 'sino sena? Guaha ha' sumusede este ya siña makonfitma i ensegidas na bendision inafamauleg. Estague' i fitme na talin inafamauleg gi tautau siha.

Buente pot man-ginen un' dikiki' hit na isla na gaige fitme ayu na sensia i inapinitiye gi halom man-natibu. Mas anog este gi tautau siha America. Oras pot oras man-mañugun pot para u fan daña gi fina' gupot yan huegu siha. Ai na pairen dinaña gi chagu' na lugat 'nai sige, ginen konbetsasion niha, mana' fitme mas i tradision natibu.

Ayu siha na inetnon 'nai anog na ni u falag manu i natibu, gaige fitme gi sensiaña i kustumbre yan tradision tano'ña. Hombre, i sentadata i sentro na asuntun dinaña. Na ti magahet na 'an guaha bisitata gi gima, ayu finenina ta faisen kau esta umamotsa 'sino sumenague'? Adahe lokue na man-mañge' boka gi lamasa. Tai bali abisun mediku gigon ta tutuhon gumulusune i cha'otta siha. De dios mihu!

■■■

Ñahlalañg

'An un' dudok kalulotmu apunteria yan dama'gas, siempre un' lie' na gai tinituhon yan finagpo' i fina' redondu. I otru sais na kalulotmu hagu mismu finafana'. Puntu? Todu tinituhon siempre u biragueʼ tatte gi hechuran finagpu'. Maseha ridondu, u tutuhongue' dispues u fattu gi finagpoña.

■■■

Gi un' misan interu, hu huñgog finu' i mañgakanta, "...tunanas gi echoñg ñamu". Ti siña hu danche haf" sustansian "echoñg ñamu". Lau i dinanche na sasañgaña, "tunanas gi echoñgñaña". Kumeke ilegña na tunanas hinanauña (batku, ruplanu 'sino kareta) gi bandaña kau hilu' tasi, chalan pat aire.

■■■

Gi tiempun politika, gulusidu i segne 'nai todu klasen diniskontentu man-oppan gi aire. Naturat na sentimientu pot para umaekspressia probleman i tautau siha gi señgsoñg. Guaha na asuntu libianu un' chule' para i kotte, fina keha gi public auditor yan otru siha koyentura. Yangin un' petsige ya un' gana asuntomu, brinda' ensegidas siete sigidu na tekila (tequilla).

CRY

From Page 10

Until all of you Legislators, strive to become statesmen and stateswomen, our beloved CNMI will continue to falter. You must rise to the challenges as never before and show us by your leadership and deeds that we can revitalize ourselves. If not, we will continue to be at best a mediocre society wholly dependent upon the United States as a child is to a parent.

When you leave office, what do you want to be remembered for? What legacy will you leave the people? What are your dreams for the CNMI? A wise man once said: "What we do for ourselves dies with us. But what we do for others, lives on forever."

The thoughts expressed above are written in behalf of the silent majority who plead with you to lead us. Hopefully these words will spur you to take heed of our pleas and act forcefully and in a positive manner.

Being a politician is not a job, but a duty. You entered it for the service of your fellow citizens. If you truly believe in your duty, than live it! Do not forsake us. Your motto must be: "I have been chosen to lead! Duty to my country comes first!" What if our servicemen did not believe and sacrifice themselves for their duty?

A special word to the rest of us. We know all the lawmakers by name and many of us are related to them. It is up to us to speak to them and motivate them to do the right thing. We cannot just blame them. We are also to blame—more than they are if we remain silent. Remember when we point a finger at someone, four fingers are pointing back at the person doing the pointing. If we want to change we must demand it. Demand that our Legislators keep the promises made to us. Together we can find ways to lift ourselves out of the pitiful state we are in.

May God grant you, Legislators, the courage to do the right thing. May He also grant you the wisdom to know what you can do and cannot do. May He grant you the courage to lead bravely.

You, the Legislature, are our voices. Let them be heard. Our country can weather any problems if we are willing to make the sacrifices. Are we? Let us march together and restore pride and dignity.

I wrote this article three years ago but I feel a desperate need to repeat it today. Thing have gotten worse. When will we wake up?

Remember keep SMILING! Don't let anyone take that away from you. Have a great week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼81°	▲86 ° ▼81°	▲85° ▼80°	▲85° ▼80°	▲85° ▼80°

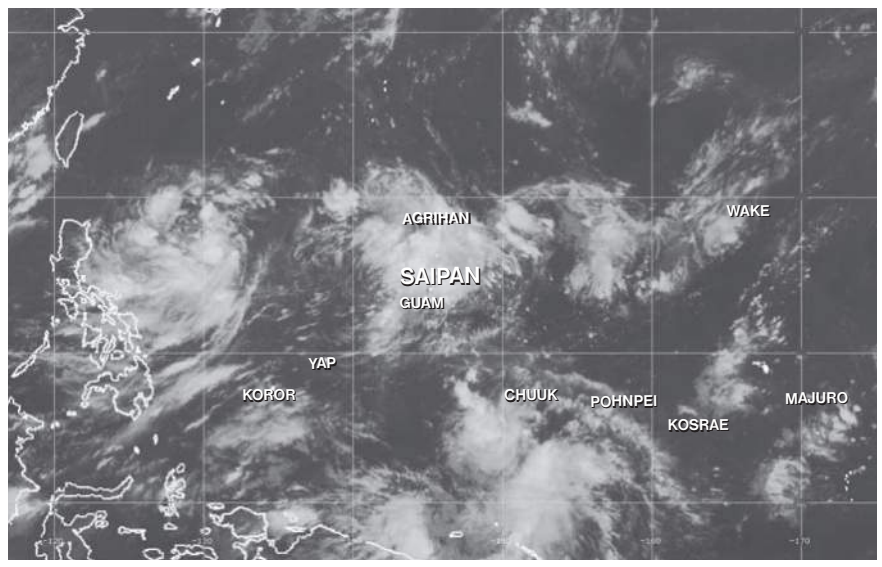
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼52
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼83
Honolulu	Sunny	▲88	▼76
London	Showers	▲72	▼61
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲86	▼68
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲56	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼70
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Paris	Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Rome	Sunny	▲91	▼71
Salem	Sunny	▲91	▼57
San Francisco	Sunny	▲70	▼58
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲82	▼73
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲87	▼80
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼75

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from near Luzon through a circulation centered well north of Koror at 16N134E, passing near guam at 13N145E to end at another circulation centered southeast of Chuuk at 2N154E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the first circulation west of a line from 22N134E to 11N132E, and also near the second circulation south of a line from 8N147E to 5N158E. Isolated thunderstorms are seen farther south of the trough axis over Koror, south of a line from 9N130E to 7N138E. Converging low-level winds near the monsoon trough are coupling with divergent upper-level winds to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the cnmi north of Rota between 14N and 21N from 138E to 152E. Isolated thunderstorms are present southeast of Guam within 60 miles of a line from 13N142E to 10N141E. Upper-level divergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Minami Tori Shima and west of Wake Island between 14N and 21N from 154E to 165E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:57 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Monday	1:51 AM	3:05 PM
Tuesday	2:42 AM	3:53 PM
Wednesday	3:34 AM	4:40 PM
Thursday	4:27 AM	5:25 PM
Friday	5:21 AM	6:09 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

US farmers expect poorest corn crop in a decade

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A deepening drought in the nation's farm states has cut further into this fall's harvest, with farmers now expected to pull from their fields the lowest corn yield in more than a decade.

But American farmers are still expected to produce their eighth-largest harvest ever, and while there's sure to be a rise in prices at the grocery stores, there's little risk of a failed harvest that would lead to shortages on the shelves.

The U.S. Agriculture Department predicted the nation's biggest harvest ever in the spring, when farmers planted 96.4 million acres of corn—the most since 1937. But it cut its estimate a month ago and again Friday, saying it now expects the nation to produce 10.8 billion bushels, the least since 2006.

If that estimate holds, the federal government says it will be enough to meet the world's needs and ensure there are no shortages. But experts say food prices will almost certainly climb as corn is a widely used ingredient found in everything from cosmetics to cereal, colas and candy bars.

The drought stretching across the U.S. from Ohio west to California is deepest in the middle of the country, and major farm states like Iowa and Illinois are seeing conditions get worse each week. Farmers credit advances in seed technology that have produced hardier, more drought-tolerant corn for any harvest at all.

"I have to be honest with you, I'm totally stunned we have corn with green stalks and leaves after going through weeks of 105-degree temperature," said Garry Niemeyer, the National Corn Growers Associated president who has 1,200 acres of corn and 800 acres of soybeans near Auburn, Ill. "Our corn yield normally would be about 190 bushels per acre. This year, if I get 110, I'd be thrilled to death."

The USDA's latest estimate predicts corn farmers will average 123.4 bushels per acre, down 24 bushels from last year in what would be the lowest average yield in 17 years. But the yield would still be as good as nearly a decade ago, when the average was about 129 bushels in a year without drought.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack trumpeted the resilience of U.S. farmers and ranchers on Friday, saying he didn't expect immediate increases in food prices and was optimistic the U.S. would continue meeting global demand for grain. The U.S. is the world's top exporter of corn, soybeans and wheat.

"Americans shouldn't see immediate increases in food prices due to the drought," Vilsack said during a trip to drought-stricken Nebraska. "What is important going forward is that we continue to do all we can to help the farmers, ranchers, small businesses and communities being impacted by this drought."

But experts have already been predicting increases in food prices. Rick Whitacre, a professor of agricultural economics at Illinois State University, said he believes the greatest impact will be in meat and poultry prices, given that many ranchers have sold off livestock as pastures dry up and feed costs rise.

The selloff will result in lower prices through December with a glut of meat on the market—but higher costs beginning next year. Whitacre predicted an eventual 4 to 6 percent increase in the cost of pork and beef.

"You're going to see the ripple of this go out for quite a distance," he said.

The effect on packaged goods and other products is harder to predict because the price of corn may be only a small part of the total cost. For example, even with today's high corn prices, a 12-ounce box of cornflakes would have only about 8 cents worth of corn, said Paul Bertels, vice president of production and utilization at the National Corn Growers Association. That's a very small portion of the $4 or so consumers might pay for that box of cereal.

Dennis Conley, an agricultural economist in University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said he expected to see nominally higher prices in U.S. supermarkets, although when "is the million-dollar question." He thought it might be a month or two before products using corn as an ingredient cost more.

Corn prices have already been going up with steady reports of worsening drought and crop damage, jumping from just under $6 a bushel in late June to over $8 a bushel in early August. There was little immediate effect from Friday's report, perhaps because the commodities sector expected the bad news.

"There was nothing really surprising. We've already had some private analysts suggesting the crop could be that low," said Mark Schultz, chief analyst at Northstar Commodity in Minneapolis.

Thousands file claims after Chevron refinery fire

RICHMOND, Calif. (AP)—Several thousand Richmond residents have filed legal claims against Chevron Corp., seeking compensation for a refinery fire that fouled the region's air for hours and sent more than 4,000 people to seek medical care for breathing problems and irritated eyes.

Hundreds of residents showed up at a makeshift claim center in Richmond on Friday, and many more submitted claims throughout the week by calling a special hotline Chevron established after Monday's explosion and fire. The company said a total of about 3,800 people had submitted claims through Friday afternoon.

Most of the claims appear to be asking for modest amounts, reflecting the fact that there have been no reports of serious injury and nearly all seeking medical care were treated and released after a few hours in the hospital.

"It's not about the money," said Chanel Harris, who was seeking reimbursement for the cost of taking her three young children to the emergency room of the nearby Kaiser Hospital. "It's about holding Chevron accountable."

Harris spent about an hour in line and another 10 minutes talking to a claims adjuster inside the Nevin Community Center in Richmond. She said she won't know how much she's seeking until Kaiser sends a bill.

Harris and others with medical insurance who sought care immediately after the incident are expecting reimbursements for their deductibles, drugs and other expenses.

Monica Morales, 26, waited for about two hours with her three children ages 6 weeks to 7 years old to file her claim. She's seeking about $500.

Others were told by a Chevron representative to expect even less, perhaps as little as $25 for a Kaiser copay.

"We are going to pay all appropriate and reasonable expenses," Chevron spokesman Sean Comey said.

Others, like Percy Gallon who showed up without receipts and other proof of expenses, were told they faced an uphill battle to receive anything.

"It's disappointing," said Gallon, a 61-year-old Richmond resident who said he lived out of the area when others received payments of about $1,000 each after a fire at the refinery in the 1990s. "I want in on this one."

The Chevron center in this gritty, blue-collar town about 15 miles northeast of San Francisco will remain open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday. Handling claims face-to-face is a new approach for Chevron, which has had dozens of accidents small and big in the more than 100 years its refinery has been located in Richmond.

US gas prices spike; refinery problems cited

NEW YORK (AP)—A surprise surge in gasoline prices is taking some of the fun out of summer.

The national average for a gallon of gas at the pump has climbed to $3.67, a rise of 34 cents since July 1. An increase in crude oil prices and problems with refineries and pipelines in the West Coast and Midwest, including a fire in California, are mostly to blame.

Analysts don't expect gas prices to get as high as they did in April, when 10 states passed $4 a gallon and the U.S. average topped out at $3.94. But this is still unwelcome news in this sluggish economy, since any extra money that goes to fill gas tanks doesn't get spent on movies and dinners out.

The rising prices could also put pressure on President Barack Obama in the heat of his re-election campaign.

When Phil Van Schepen recently went to fill up his dry-cleaning delivery van in Coon Rapids, Minn., he found a Post-it note a driver before him had placed on the pump faulting Obama for high gasoline prices.

"It's a reminder of his energy policies overall, which I don't agree with," said Van Schepen, who buys about 100 gallons a week and finds he is spending about $40 more than he did in early July. Still, he said the Post-it "was a bit much" because the president isn't responsible for gasoline prices.

Analysts and economists agree, saying prices for crude oil and wholesale gasoline are set on financial exchanges around the world based on supply and demand and expectations about how those factors may change.

The price at the pump in the U.S. fell more than 60 cents per gallon during the spring as the global economy slowed and turmoil in the Middle East seemed to subside.

But crude oil is climbing again, rising to $94 a barrel from a low of $78 in late June. Production outages in South Sudan and the North Sea, Western sanctions that have cut the flow of Iranian oil, Iran's threat to block tankers passing through the vital Strait of Hormuz, and fears that the violence in Syria could escalate into a wider regional conflict have driven up oil prices.

Seasonal factors are also sending pump prices higher. Gas usually costs more in the late spring and summer because refiners have to make more expensive blends of gasoline to meet clean air rules and because the summer driving season boosts demand.

In the past few weeks, pipelines serving Wisconsin and Illinois ruptured, refineries were shut down unexpectedly because of equipment problems in Illinois and Indiana, and a blaze broke out at a refinery in Richmond, Calif.

Gasoline prices shot up more than 50 cents in the span of a month in Indiana, Vermont, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan and Wisconsin. And California drivers have seen gas climb 13 cents since the fire Monday. Motorists in many cities there are paying well over $4.

AP

The sun rises over grain bins and a drought struggling corn crop Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012 in Ashland, Ill. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor survey shows an increase in extreme drought conditions in four Plains states.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mercedes-Benz recalls floor mats from ML-Class

NEW YORK (AP)—Mercedes-Benz is recalling all-season accessory floor mats sold in model year 2012 and 2013 ML-Class vehicles because they could cause the car's gas pedal to get stuck. Mercedes said Saturday that the mats may not conform to the contours of the car's floor. As a result, the gas pedal may not fully retract after the driver stops applying pressure, and the car may not slow down as expected. The company is advising ML-Class owners to remove the accessory floor mats. A spokesman for Mercedes-Benz says the company is not aware of any crashes or injuries caused by the floor mat problem and is not sure how many vehicles worldwide may have the accessory floor mats. In a form filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the company said the problem may affect 8,675 vehicles in the U.S.

GM recalls more than 38,000 Impala police cars

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors is recalling more than 38,000 Chevrolet Impala police cars in the U.S. and Canada because a part in the front suspension can crack and cause a crash. The recall affects police cars from the 2008 through 2012 model years. The lower control arm in the suspension can fracture, causing sudden changes in handling that could make the driver lose control, GM said in documents posted Saturday on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website. Impalas sold to the public have some different suspension parts and are not affected by the recall, spokesman Alan Adler said. "We tested for durability on the civilian Impala, and we believe there are no issues," he said.

Nation

It's Paul Ryan: Romney picks Wis. Rep. for No. 2

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Republican Mitt Romney anointed Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, an ardent conservative and devoted budget cutter, as his vice presidential running mate on Saturday, and the two men immediately embarked on a tour of campaign battleground states vowing to defeat President Barack Obama and repair the long-ailing U.S. economy.

America is "a nation facing debt, doubt and despair," and a transformative change in leadership is vital, Ryan declared to a flag-waving crowd in the first moments after Romney introduced him as his partner for the fall campaign.

"Regrettably, President Obama has become part of the problem... and Mitt Romney is the solution," said the seven-term lawmaker, who at 42 is a generation younger than Romney, 65. Ryan is chairman of the House Budget Committee, the chief architect of deeply controversial budget plans and widely viewed by Republican lawmakers as an intellectual leader within the party.

The two Republican ticket mates basked in the cheers of supporters in a made-for-television debut on a ticket hoping to make Obama's first term his last. "I did not make a mistake with this guy," Romney exulted.

Romney declared that in the campaign to come, Republicans will present economic solutions "that are bold, specific and achievable. ... We offer our commitment to help create 12 million new jobs and to bring better take-home pay to middle class families."

AP

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, right, and vice presidential running mate Rep. Paul Ryan R-Wis. are joined by Ronmey's granddaughter Chloe while talking to reporters on the charter flight between Virginia and North Carolina, Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012.

The party establishment, rank-and-file conservatives and tea party groups all cheered the pick made by Romney, whose own record as a moderate during his term as Massachusetts governor less than a decade ago made his march to the presidential nomination an uneven one.

Obama's campaign didn't wait long to respond. It criticized the budget blueprints Ryan has authored, particularly his recommendations to fundamentally remake Medicare and cut $5.3 trillion in government spending over the coming decade.

Ryan joins a race that has been defined from the beginning by a weak economy and high unemployment, measured most recently at 8.3 percent in July. Even so, recent national polls as well as surveys in several battleground states indicate a narrow advantage for Obama.

While Romney's pick unified Republicans, the impact in swing states such as Florida, Iowa and Pennsylvania was an open question. All are home to large numbers of seniors whose reaction to Ryan's prescription for Medicare is certain to be tested by Democrats.

Ryan's selection as well as Romney's own nomination will be ratified by delegates to the Republican National Convention that begins on Aug. 27 in Tampa, Fla.

Obama and Vice President Joe Biden will be nominated for a second term at the Democratic convention the following week. The vice president called Ryan to congratulate him on his selection, the president's campaign said.

Rep. Paul Ryan
The Wisconsin Republican has been picked by Mitt Romney to be his vice-presidential running mate
Early years
Born 1970; Janesville, Wis.
Education Bachelor's degree, economics, political science; Miami Univ. of Ohio, 1992
Family Roman Catholic; married, with three children
Political career
1992 Intern to U.S. Sen. Bob Kasten, R-Wis.
1993-95 Speechwriter, advisor for Empower America, a conservative pressure group
1995-97 Legislative aide, U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan.
1996 Speechwriter for Jack Kemp during his GOP vice presidential campaign
1998-present U.S. representative from Wis.; drafted GOP budget plan that would cut discretionary spending, overhaul Medicare, Medicaid
© 2012 MCT
Source: AP, Washington Post, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Judy Treible, Tim Goheen

Police embrace emerging social media tool

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Minutes after a shooting near the Oakland Airport this year, the gunman was on the loose. And police Sgt. Chris Bolton quickly fired off a flurry of text alerts to thousands of nearby residents through a social media tool for law enforcement agencies.

"Stay out of area," said one alert. "Multiple shooting victims reported. Medical on-scene. Police are evacuating a nearby, affected business."

Officers would eventually discover a grisly scene inside a tiny Christian college on that spring day. Seven people were killed, three others wounded and dozens terrified in the deadliest mass shooting in the city's history.

Bolton later gave those on edge an update: "Possible suspect in custody. No imminent public safety threat appears to exist in immediate area."

Across the country, law officers are adding a new form of social media to their arsenal of crime fighting tools.

Almost 6,000 law enforcement agencies are now deploying the public notification service Nixle to provide residents with real-time alerts on crimes in progress, traffic messes and missing children. Previously, the service has helped police in Amarillo, Texas, capture a fugitive wanted for aggravated robbery and probation violation; and authorities in Fayetteville, N.C., nabbed a suspect wanted for armed robbery soon after a Nixle alert was sent to residents.

With the San Francisco-based service approaching 1 million subscribers, with police departments participating in major cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles, Baltimore and Dallas, it is part of what one expert calls a new "blue wave" of electronic community policing that lets cops reach out directly to the public.

Report: Racial profiling alleged at Boston airport

NEW YORK (AP)—Transportation Security Administration officers at Boston's Logan International Airport are alleging that a program intended to help flag possible terrorists based on passengers' mannerisms has led to rampant racial profiling, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The New York Times (http://nyti.ms/P2enzf) reported on its website that in interviews and internal complaints it has obtained, more than 30 officers involved in the "behavior detection" program at Logan contend that the operation targets not only Middle Easterners, but also passengers who fit certain profiles - such as Hispanics traveling to Miami, or blacks wearing baseball caps backward.

The TSA told the newspaper on Friday that it is investigating the officers' claims. At a meeting last month with the agency, officers provided written complaints, some of them anonymous, from 32 officers.

The officers said their coworkers were increasingly targeting minorities, believing the stops would lead to the discovery of drugs, outstanding arrest warrants and immigration problems, in response to pressure from managers who wanted high numbers of stops, searches and criminal referrals, The Times reported.

"The behavior detection program is no longer a behavior-based program, but it is a racial profiling program," one officer wrote in an anonymous complaint The Times obtained.

The program, which has been billed as a model for other airports across the country, is intended to allow officers to stop, search and question passengers who seem suspicious. Specially trained "assessors" observe security lines for unusual activity and speak individually with each passenger, looking for inconsistencies in the passenger's responses to questions and behavior such as avoiding eye contact, fidgeting or sweating.

Passengers considered suspicious can be taken aside for more intensive questioning.

At least one passenger has filed a formal complaint with the TSA. Kenneth Boatner, a black psychologist and educational consultant who was traveling to Atlanta on business last month, said he was detained for nearly half an hour as agents examined his belongings, including his checkbook and his patients' clinical notes.

In an interview with The Times, Boatner said he felt humiliated, and that the officers never explained why they were singling him out, but he suspected it was because of his race and attire. He was wearing sweat pants, a white T-shirt and high-top sneakers.

ACROSS THE NATION

Trial hinges on dying man's gesture ID'ing gunman

CINCINNATI (AP)—Paralyzed and hooked up to a ventilator, David Chandler was two weeks from death when police arrived at his hospital room to question him about the person who shot him. They wanted to know if he could identify a suspect, and they had a photo to show him. Chandler was unable to communicate except with his eyes as he lay in bed attached to myriad tubes and with a brace around his neck. His eyes opened barely more than a slit at times; he was instructed to blink three times for yes and twice for no. One detective quizzed him, and another videotaped his responses. Chandler didn't respond with blinks to every question in the 17-minute video, and there were solo blinks. But triple blinks came in response to repeated questions asking if he knew the shooter and whether the person in the photo was the culprit.

Canadian lobster fishermen union reaches agreement

FREDERICTON, New Brunswick (AP)—The union representing lobster fishermen in New Brunswick said Saturday that it has reached an agreement with the provincial government and fish processing plants after fishermen blockaded several Canadian plants, demanding that they not accept cheaper lobsters from Maine. Christian Brun of the The Maritime Fishermen's Union said a tentative deal was reached Friday night and approved by most of the fishermen early Saturday morning. Tensions over lobster prices bubbled over last week, when fishermen in the province held demonstrations in Cap-Pele and Shediac and trucks were blocked from delivering Maine lobsters to processing plants. Canadian lobstermen say the low price of Maine lobsters is driving down prices in Canada and stealing their livelihood.

Va. man, 67, wins AARP spelling bee for 2nd time

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—A 67-year-old Virginia man outspelled four of his cousins to capture first place at this year's AARP National Spelling Bee. Michael Petrina Jr., of Arlington, Va., spelled better than 48 others Saturday to become the bee's first repeat winner. He won the bee in 2009, and placed second last year and in 2008. Wyoming AARP spokeswoman Joanne Mai says the retired attorney won by correctly spelling the word "rhizoctonia" (rhy-zahk-TOH'-nee-uh), a type of imperfect fungi. Petrina's prizes include $1,000 and a five-year AARP membership. The bee was a family reunion for Petrina's cousins. All four are siblings who have not seen each other since 2003.

Asia

China says it's willing to ease ASEAN rift on sea

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—China's top diplomat said Friday the country was willing to ease differences over the handling of territorial disputes in the South China Sea and insisted that maintaining peace there was a shared responsibility.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi is on a two-day visit to Indonesia after his Jakarta counterpart Marty Natalegawa made whirlwind visits to Southeast Asian nations trying to smooth discord over handling of South China Sea disputes.

▶ This July 16, 2012 photo released by the Armed Forces of the Philippines Western Command (AFP WESCOM) shows an aerial surveillance photo of structures made by China at Panganiban reef, also known as Mischief reef, at South China Sea, located off western Palawan province, Philippines. AP

The foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations failed to issue a concluding joint statement at their recent summit for the first time in ASEAN's 45-year history. Cambodia, the host country and a close China ally, refused to sign off on language sought by the Philippines and Vietnam mentioning their individual disputes with China over the South China Sea.

Yang said at their joint news conference Friday that China was willing to work with ASEAN to implement the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. That document was signed by ASEAN and China in 2002 and discourages aggressive acts that might spark clashes, but it has not yet been implemented.

China was also willing "on the basis of consensus" to work toward the eventual adoption of the Code of Conduct on the South China Sea," Yang said. China has yet to sign that document, an advanced framework for peacefully resolving disputes in the South China Sea.

Four ASEAN members—Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines—plus China and Taiwan claim all or part of the South China Sea, which is rich in fishing, has some of the world's busiest sea lanes and is believed to have vast energy deposits.

China has long said it wants to handle disputes over its claims bilaterally, while the other claimants have tried to raise the issue in international forums. Yang did not raise those differences in his remarks Friday.

"I'm assured very much that our diplomacy is very much on track," Natalegawa said. "We still have the Declaration on Conduct to implement and the Code of Conduct to work toward."

The increasing spats over the sea have raised concerns that the area could become a flashpoint for violence. Washington has said maintaining freedom of navigation in the sea is in its national interest, a position that has angered China.

Yang also plans to visit Brunei and Malaysia on his current trip.

SKorean leader visits islets, draws Japan protest

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president has made a surprise, election-year visit to islets also claimed by Japan, which quickly reasserted its sovereignty there, recalled its ambassador from Seoul and warned that the trip would worsen the countries' strained relations.

President Lee Myung-bak's trip Friday to the tiny, rocky outcroppings between the countries was the first by a South Korean president, officials in his office said. It came as his popularity is dropping and his conservative party jockeys for votes ahead of a presidential election in December. Lee is nearing the end of his single, five-year term and cannot run for re-election.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda told reporters the islets are "our sovereign territory."

"This is completely unacceptable," Noda said. "It is deeply regrettable." He said Japan's ambassador to Seoul was being called back to Tokyo. Japanese officials also called Seoul's representative in Tokyo to the Foreign Ministry to hear Japan's complaints.

Lee's visit came on the eve of the men's bronze medal Olympic soccer match between Japan and South Korea and ahead of South Korea's commemoration Wednesday of the peninsula's independence in 1945 from 35 years of Japanese colonial rule.

"Having the visit coincide with an Olympic contest between the Japanese and South Korean soccer teams only makes it more of a thumb in the eye to Japan," Boston University professor William Grimes said in an email. The match ended in a 2-0 win for South Korea.

South Korea stations a small contingent of police officers on the disputed islets in a show of control, but Japan maintains that the rocks are its territory. Tokyo renewed the claim last month in an annual defense report.

Lee placed his hand on a rock carving that says "South Korean territory" during the visit to the islets—called Dokdo in Korean and Takeshima in Japanese. He also told police officers there that the islets are "worth sacrificing lives for," according to his office.

Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba strongly protested. "It is incomprehensible why he would make this trip at this time," Gemba said.

The largely uninhabited islets surrounded by fish-rich waters have long been a source of discord, even though Japan and South Korea are strong U.S. allies, share vibrant trade and tourism ties and are partners in diplomatic efforts to persuade North Korea to abandon its long-range missile and nuclear arms programs.

History and territorial disputes, however, trouble the relationship. Many people on the Korean Peninsula harbor deep resentment stemming from Japan's brutal colonization. South Korea and Japan also remain at odds over what many South Koreans say is Japan's failure to properly address its past actions, including its World War II-era use of Korean women as sexual slaves for its soldiers.

In late June, after a political outcry in South Korea, Seoul and Tokyo put on hold an intelligence sharing pact that had been seen as a breakthrough in their relations. Grimes said Lee was trying to shore up his party's nationalist credentials after he was forced by popular pressure to postpone the agreement.

South Korean activists last year placed a statue of a girl representing victims of Japanese sexual slavery in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. Japanese officials have apologized, but Tokyo has refused repeated demands from individuals for reparations, saying the matter was resolved through international peace treaties.

U.S. State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell expressed hope for good relations between the two key U.S. allies after being asked about reports that Lee was planning to visit the disputed islets.

Last year, Seoul banned three conservative Japanese lawmakers from entering South Korea after they arrived at a Seoul airport with announced plans to travel near the islets.

Thousands to help clean up Manila flood debris

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Officials said Saturday they will mobilize thousands to clean up the Philippine capital in the wake of torrential monsoon rains and flooding as evacuees return to clear mud and debris that swamped their homes.

Civil defense chief Benito Ramos said that police, soldiers, coast guard personnel and military reservists will be used to help Manila recover from its worst flooding since 2009. Hundreds of volunteers who helped in rescue and relief work in the early days of the floods will also help in the cleanup.

The Office of Civil Defense said Saturday the floods left at least 66 people dead and affected up to 2.68 million people in Manila and nearby provinces, with more than 440,000 fleeing to evacuation centers.

"The mounds of garbage and muck are terrible," Ramos said. "This is embarrassing to foreigners."

Corazon Jimenez, general manager of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, which is in charge of traffic management and garbage disposal for the sprawling capital of 12 million, said part of the cleanup will involve collecting the garbage that has washed from creeks and rivers into Manila Bay.

"I can't describe this anymore. These are mountains of garbage," she said.

Incessant rains from Sunday through Wednesday swelled rivers and creeks and overwhelmed drainage canals already clogged with garbage, raising flood waters that at the peak submerged more than half of metropolitan Manila.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman said authorities have already closed about 100 of 351 government-run shelters in the metropolis as evacuees trickled home.

She said the government planned to relocate about half a million urban poor families in the capital, most of them living in "danger zones" such as by river banks and under bridges.

"It can be done, but that would need a lot of help and a lot of political will from people involved," Soliman said.

She didn't say how much the relocation would cost, but said funding wasn't a problem because of prudent spending by the government and anti-corruption measures.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bo Xilai's fate still uncertain after wife's trial

BEIJING (AP)—The official Chinese account of the murder trial of the wife of a disgraced top politician made clear that she will be convicted, but never mentioned her once-powerful husband, suggesting the Communist Party wants to distance him from the crime. The extraordinarily long account by the official Xinhua News Agency said Gu Kailai and a household aide "confessed to intentional murder" in their trial Thursday in the death of British businessman Neil Heywood. Gu's husband, Bo Xilai, was one of China's most powerful and charismatic politicians until he was ousted as Communist Party chief of Chongqing city as the scandal surrounding Heywood's death last November unfolded.

Afghan policeman kills 10 fellow policemen

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan police officer killed at least 10 of his fellow officers on Saturday, a day after six U.S. service members were gunned down by their Afghan partners in summer violence that has both international and Afghan forces questioning who is friend or foe. Attacks on foreign troops by Afghans working with the alliance are on the rise and, while cases of Afghan security forces killing within their own ranks are less frequent, together they show how battle lines have blurred in the decade-long war. The assaults on international service members have stoked fear and mistrust of their Afghan allies, threatening to hamper the U.S.-led coalition's ongoing work to train and professionalize Afghan policemen and soldiers.

52 killed as bus falls into gorge in north India

NEW DELHI (AP)—An overcrowded bus fell into a deep gorge in a mountainous area of northern India on Saturday, killing 52 people and injuring 46 others, police said. The driver lost control of the vehicle on a sharp curve in Himachal Pradesh state, about 620 kilometers (385 miles) north of New Delhi, police officer Raj Kumar said. The bus then fell more than 100 meters (300 feet) into the gorge, Kumar said. The bus then fell more than 100 meters (300 feet) into the gorge, Kumar said.

Lightning kills 13 outside Bangladesh mosque

SYLHET, Bangladesh (AP)—At least 13 devotees have been killed by lightning outside a mosque in northeastern Bangladesh. Local police chief Bayes Ahmed says 20 other people were injured by the lightning late Friday in Sylhet district. The victims were struck by the lightning as they were exiting the mosque following special prayers tied to the holy month of Ramadan. Ahmed said Saturday that some of those who were killed died at the scene, while others died on the way to the hospital. He said the imam who led the prayers was among the dead.

World

Iran earthquakes kill at least 250, injure 2,000

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Two strong earthquakes leveled villages and damaged homes in northwestern Iran on Saturday, killing at least 250 people and injuring more than 2,000 others, state TV reported. Thousands of people spent the night outdoors as aftershocks rattled the area.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported that Saturday's first quake at 4:53 p.m. (1223 GMT) had a magnitude of 6.4 and struck 37 miles (60 kilometers) northeast of the city of Tabriz at a depth of 9.9 kilometers (6.2 miles). Its epicenter was a region between the towns of Ahar and Haris, about 200 miles (500 kilometers) northwest of the capital Tehran, according to Khalil Saei, local Crisis Committee chief, the TV report said.

The second quake with a magnitude of 6.3 struck 11 minutes later, the U.S.G.S. reported. Its epicenter was 29 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Tabriz at a depth of 6.1 miles (9.8 kilometers).

The quakes hit the towns of Ahar, Haris and Varzaqan in East Azerbaijan province, the TV report said. At least six villages were totally leveled, and 60 others sustained damage ranging from 50 to 80 percent, it said.

At least 10 aftershocks jolted the same area and were felt in a wide region near the Caspian Sea, causing panic among the population.

Saei urged people in the quake region to stay outdoors and spend the night at parks and open spaces in anticipation of more aftershocks. Authorities feared the death toll could rise as rescuers were still trying to reach people trapped under rubble and had not yet reacher some more remote villages.

Iran is located on seismic fault lines and is prone to earthquakes. It experiences at least one earthquake every day on average, although the vast majority are so small they go unnoticed.

In 2003, some 26,000 people were killed by a magnitude 6.6 quake that flattened the historic southeastern city of Bam.

AP

Ruins of a houses are seen after an earthquake in the city of Varzaqan in northwestern Iran, on Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012. A 6.2-magnitude earthquake hit the towns of Ahar, Haris and Varzaqan in East Azerbaijan province in northwestern Iran on Saturday, state TV said.

Man charged with murder of UK schoolgirl

LONDON (AP)—The partner of the grandmother of a missing British schoolgirl was charged Saturday with the 12-year-old's murder, police said.

The charge came as police apologized to Tia Sharp's mother after they failed to find the girl's body in her grandmother's house the first three times they searched it.

Scotland Yard blamed "human error" and apologized for "the distress and concern" caused by the delay in finding Sharp's body, which was discovered Friday in the house—her last known whereabouts—one week after she disappeared in south London.

Stuart Hazell, the 37-year-old partner of Tia's grandmother Christine Sharp, has been charged with murder and will appear in court on Monday.

Two others, a 46-year-old woman arrested on suspicion of murder and a 39-year-old man suspected of "assisting an offender," have been bailed to return to a London police station, they said.

Neither suspect was identified by name in line with British practice, and police did not disclose what relationship, if any, the suspects had with the victim. The Press Association and the BBC said the woman was Christina Sharp, and the man was a neighbor.

It is not yet known how the schoolgirl died, and a post-mortem examination is expected to take place Sunday.

The discovery of Tia Sharp's body led to anger and disbelief in Britain. The family's frantic search and appeals had even managed to displace much of the feel-good Olympic coverage from the front pages of the nation's tabloids, with at one point The Sun offering 25,000 pounds (nearly $40,000) for the tip that led to the girl's safe return.

The Daily Mirror newspaper asked its readers "WHY DID IT TAKE COPS 8 DAYS?" with the figure 8 outlined in red. The Daily Mail was even more critical, writing under a bold-faced "SHAMBLES" headline: "Despite a week-long hunt by 100 police with dogs, Tia is found dead in her granny's house, which officers had searched THREE times."

Police have not specified exactly where in the house the body was found, but Scotland Yard Commander Neil Basu said Friday they had been juggling several different leads with detectives sifting through 60 sightings of the missing girl, 300 calls, and 800 hours of surveillance footage.

Blasts, gunfire hit Damascus in blow to Assad

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Gunmen detonated back-to-back roadside bombs and clashed with police in central Damascus Saturday in attacks that caused no damage but highlighted the ability of rebels to breach the intense security near President Bashar Assad's power bases.

The apparently coordinated blasts point to the increasing use of guerrilla-style operations in the capital to undermine the government's claims of having full control over Damascus. It also suggests that rebel cells have established a Damascus network capable of evading Assad's intelligence agents and slipping through security cordons.

Assad's regime, however, has displayed no hesitation on the battlefield despite blows such as Damascus attacks and defections of high-ranking military and political figures, including the prime minister earlier this week.

In Aleppo, activists said Syrian forces pressed ahead with an offensive to break rebel footholds in the nation's largest city. The London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a helicopter gunship fired missiles on apartment buildings a day after protesters begged for international shipments of anti-aircraft weapons.

With diplomatic efforts all but exhausted, strategic planning has moved into high gear for Assad's possible fall or worst-case scenarios if the civil war deepens, including use of his suspected chemical arsenal.

In Istanbul, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Turkey's foreign minister said their countries were creating a special joint task force to respond to potential crises such as victims of chemical attacks or a dramatic spike in the more than 200,000 refugees that have already fled Syria.

"We have been closely coordinating over the course of this conflict, but now we need to get into the real details of such operational planning. It needs to be across both of our governments," Clinton said after talks with Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.

Davutoglu hinted at the possibility of setting up a so-called "safe zone" inside Syria to protect war refugees from possible attacks by Assad's gunners or warplanes. "We need to brace for impact," he said.

The Arab League, meanwhile, announced that its foreign ministers will meet in an emergency session in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, on Sunday to discuss the Syrian meltdown, which human rights groups say has claimed at least 20,000 lives. Some Arab states, led by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, are major rebel backers.

Syria's security forces say they pushed the rebels from the capital after intense, week-long battles last month. But opposition fighters appear resilient and resourceful in some areas.

On the capital's northern edge, Syrian forces pounded the suburb of al-Tal with mortars and artillery shells in the third consecutive day of government barrages, said Mohammed Saeed, an activist in al-Tal. He said they were using helicopters to strafe the area, adding that two hospitals were hit.

"The situation is very grave and the town is completely besieged," he said.

It came a day after armed men snatched three journalists from the pro-regime TV station Al-Ikhbariya and their drivers while they were covering the al-Tal violence. The station's general manager Imad Sarah said efforts were under way to release them. In June, gunmen raided Al-Ikhbariya's headquarters, killing seven employees.

The bombings in Damascus itself brought chaos to some of the most exclusive areas of the capital in a symbolic blow to Assad.

One blast—from a device planted under a tree—was set off by remote control as a vehicle carrying soldiers passed by in the Marjeh district, an official at the site of the blast site told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk the press.

The explosion, which caused no casualties, was about 100 yards (meters) from the Four Seasons, one of the top luxury hotels in Damascus.

After the blast, gunmen opened fire on civilians "to provoke panic," the state-run news agency SANA said.

At the same time, the second explosion went off near Tishrin Stadium, less than a half mile (kilometer) away, SANA reported.

Just hours later, SANA reported that a bus was attacked in a Damascus suburb, killing six passengers traveling from the central province of Hama.

The news agency said security agents were pursuing the attackers in all incidents, referring to them as "terrorists"—the term authorities routinely use for rebels trying to topple Assad's regime.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US withholds funds to Honduran police

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—The U.S. government is withholding funds to Honduran law enforcement units directly supervised by their new national police chief until the U.S. can investigate allegations that he ran a death squad a decade ago, according to a State Department report released this week. The report says the State Department "is aware of allegations of human rights violations related to Police Chief Juan Carlos Bonilla's service" and that the U.S. government has established a working group to investigate. The U.S. had pledged $56 million in bilateral security and development assistance for 2012 in Honduras, where tons of drugs pass through each year on their way to the United States.

Tropical Storm Hector off western Mexico coast

MIAMI (AP)—Forecasters say Tropical Storm Hector has formed off the western coast of Mexico and is expected to move farther out to sea over the next few days. Hector is the season's eighth named tropical storm. The National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, says winds Saturday night were sustained at 40 mph (65 kph) and the storm is about 250 miles (405 kilometers) west of Manzanillo, Mexico. Forecasters say the storm is expected to strengthen but was moving west-southwest farther out in the Eastern Pacific.

US lawmakers call on Bahrain king to free activist

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Nineteen members of the U.S. Congress have written to Bahrain's king to call for the release of prominent human rights activist Nabeel Rajab, who is currently serving a three-month jail sentence for making anti-government statements on Twitter. Rajab, the president of the Bahrain Center For Human Rights, is due in court Sunday in a separate case that relates to him allegedly calling for and participating in an illegal gathering. The letter sent Friday to King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa acknowledges the country has introduced reforms since last year's anti-government protests. But it also said Rajab's prosecution runs "counter to the government's assurances that individuals will not be prosecuted for peaceful political speech."

Focus

AP

In this Monday Aug. 6, 2012 file photograph, Egyptian border guards patrol near the border with Israel in Rafah, Egypt.

In Egypt's chaotic Sinai, militants grow stronger

El-ARISH, Egypt (AP)—After decades of neglect and with the collapse of government authority the past 18 months, Egypt's Sinai Peninsula has become fertile ground for Islamic extremists. Militant groups have taken root, carrying out attacks against neighboring Israel and now turning their guns against Egypt's military as they vow to set up a puritanical Islamic state. At a mosque in the northern Sinai village of Sheikh Zuweyid, a Bedouin tribal sheik gestures out toward the deserts that stretch outside of town. There, Sheik Arafa Khedr said, it's well known that militants have set up training camps. Jihadists recruit young Bedouin. Palestinian militants from neighboring Gaza help in weapons training.

The danger, Khedr said, is that Sinai could become another Yemen, where al-Qaida-linked militants last year managed to take over a swath of territory in the south. "We're expecting the entire region to be like Jaar," he said, referring to a southern Yemeni town that militants held for months until Yemeni troops uprooted them earlier this year.

Egypt's army and security forces on Tuesday launched an offensive to "restore control" over Sinai after a stunning attack this week made clear the militants' growing strength. On Sunday, gunmen attacked an army checkpoint near where the borders of Egypt, Israel and Gaza meet, killing 16 soldiers, stealing vehicles and driving them into Israel in an apparent attempt to carry out another attack before they were hit by Israeli forces.

The attack set off alarms in Egypt and Israel. So far, no one has claimed responsibility for the attack. Security officials estimate hundreds of fighters operate in Sinai—though their numbers fluctuate and could at times reach as high as 1,500. The militants are not linked to al-Qaida, the officials insist, but do share similar ideologies and get backing from extremists from Gaza.

Residents say the crisis has long been building.

Since the ouster last year of Hosni Mubarak, traditional tribal leaders like Khedr have stepped in to fill the void in authority. But they say they face competition from extremism growing on two separate but intertwined fronts. Hard-line Muslim preachers have gained influence in the impoverished Bedouin towns of northern Sinai, often filling in for the role of the state and adjudicating disputes with Islamic Shariah law. At the same time, armed militants have become bolder, their ambitions growing to confront Cairo's rule.

The traditional leaders caught in the middle say government only feeds radicalism by its domineering attitude over Bedouin and failure to develop the region.

"The people you see today chanting in support of the military after Sunday's attack will turn against the military in time because of neglect," warned Sheik Ibrahim el-Menaey, a powerful Bedouin businessman. "There cannot be security in Sinai without partnership with the residents of Sinai."

The rugged peninsula of barren deserts and daunting mountains—a little smaller than West Virginia and bit bigger than Croatia with a population of around 400,000—has long been a volatile corner of Egypt.

It has been a major crossroads for smuggling drugs and migrants. An entire industry rose up in smuggling goods into Gaza, which came under virtual seal by Israel and Egypt after the militant Palestinian group Hamas took over in 2007.

The central government has tended to view the Sinai through two lenses. One is as a main theater for its dealings with neighboring Israel, which seized the peninsula in the 1967 war and returned it under the 1979 peace accord. The other is tourism: Over the past decade, the government has focused on developing the Red Sea beach resorts that line the peninsula's southern edges and have become the main engine of the country's vital tourist industry.

The Bedouin residents, meanwhile, complain that Cairo leaves them to wallow in poverty and treats them like the enemy.

This, they say, led to Islamic militant activity that has previously erupted. In 2004 and 2005, bombings at the Red Sea resorts killed around 125 people. That prompted mass arrests of Bedouins that only further poisoned relations between residents and authorities—without ever finding a clear explanation of who was behind the attacks.

But Sinai spiraled out of control after Mubarak's fall—particularly in the north of the peninsula. Across Egypt, police and internal security forces fell apart during the anti-Mubarak uprising. They have in part returned to the streets in some areas, but in north Sinai their presence remains negligible. Police don't man checkpoints on the roads outside the provincial capital el-Arish without military forces present to assist. The police station in the nearby town of Sheikh Zuweyid was closed after it was set ablaze during the uprising and reopened only Wednesday.

As a result, the region has become more lawless. Weapons have flowed in from Libya since its civil war ended late last year, some of them smuggled on to other destinations, but others ending up in militants' hands in Sinai.

Attacks on security forces have multiplied—at least 35 since early last year, killing more than 50 policemen and soldiers, security officials say. There have been 15 bombings of the gas pipeline that runs underground through North Sinai to Israel.

Over the same period, militants have carried out three attacks into Israel. In one attack a year ago, gunmen from Gaza who crossed through the Sinai into Israel killed eight people in an ambush, sparking an Israeli retaliation that accidentally killed three Egyptian soldiers.

Amid the poverty, many have turned to more hardline religious movements. Khedr, the tribal sheik, pointed to two recent attacks wrecking the shrine of Sheikh Zuweyid, a local Muslim saint after whom the town is named. Such shrines, revered by the mystical Sufi movement of Islam, are reviled by hardliners who see them as heretical.

Ultraconservatives known as Salafis have grown popularity. Also swelling in numbers is a more fringe group known as Takfir wil-Hijra, dubbed "takfiris", their popularity fueled by lack of jobs, poverty and government repression. They practice a stringent form of Islam that believes in total isolation from a society seen as heretical. Their children do not go to schools, they shun the state and do not attend traditional Friday prayers in mosques—because even Salafi preachers who do not share their beliefs are considered infidels. While the "takfiris" are not all engaged in attacks on security forces, their pool of supporters is an easy target for jihadist militant recruiters, said Mohamed Jabr, who was once a follower of Takfir wil-Hijra until he eased into Salafi trend.

And those militants, he said, have made bringing a strict version of Islamic rule in Egypt a priority over the traditional enemy, Israel.

"I asked one of the jihadis why they are not targeting Israel and he said their goal is to `purge' and `cleanse' Egypt of infidels first," Jabr asid.

A handful of militant groups have arisen in Sinai, though it is unknown whether they operate together or are loosely linked.

On Aug. 1, a group calling itself Jund al-Shariah, or Soldiers of Islamic Law, announced in a Web statement it would wage jihad against "the current tyrant of Egypt ... until they implement God's Shariah in the land."

Web videos from another group, Ansar al-Haq, showed gunmen wearing ski masks and camouflage fatigues training with weapons in the Sinai desert. One of the videos showed the men openly patrolling the streets of a northern Sinai town, brandishing assault rifles and grenade launchers, as curious crowds watched in the background.

"We are, by the permission of God Almighty, a force for the truth in order to protect our homes, lives, and families from oppression of any kind," a bearded young man says to the camera—the only unmasked person in the video and apparently the group's leader.

In Sunday's attack, militants struck just as the soldiers were having their evening meal breaking the dawn-to-dusk fast of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Eissa Mohamed Salama, 19, who lives nearby, said two Land Cruisers with about 15 well-built gunmen in ski masks and all-black outfits opened fire on the soldiers. Some of the gunmen loaded up the vehicles with ammunition and weapons from the checkpoint. One militant got out a camera and filmed the bodies of the soldiers.

All the while, a hail of missiles was being fired from Gaza that confused residents about what was going on, he said.

"It was an hour before a military officer with a driver arrived and saw the bodies," he said.

Shady Attiya owns a nearby cafe, nicknamed "The Misrata Cafe" after Libya's third largest city because patrons there not only sip coffee and smoke waterpipes but also sell cars smuggled in from Libya to Gazans who slip them into the Palestinian territory.

Attiya was among the residents who helped transport wounded soldiers to the hospital at Rafah on the Gaza border. For him, the attack underlined the whole breakdown of the system. Residents were the only responders at the scene and they had to carry the bodies through mounds of trash at the entrance of the Rafah hospital. Inside, he said, there were no blood bags or proper equipment to save lives.

"It was just pathetic that this is the state of our military, and our hospitals and our schools too," he said. "As I'm picking up the bodies I'm thinking where are our ambulances, our army, our tactics?"

Health & Fitness

Experimental stroke therapy helps Illinois senator

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP)—Good luck and experimental therapy may have helped U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk recover more than he would have with standard care after he suffered a stroke in January.

ON THE NET
Kirk video: http://bit.ly/NuuErR

The 52-year-old is making excellent progress, according to medical experts not involved in his care who watched a video released this week by the Illinois Republican's office. Kirk is seen in the video climbing stairs and walking on a treadmill with a therapist's help.

Kirk credits lead researcher and physical therapist T. George Hornby at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, whose work may change standard therapy for stroke patients. During Kirk's nine weeks participating in Hornby's research, he walked nearly 15 miles and climbed 145 flights of stairs.

"We basically treat them like athletes," said Hornby, who is testing what happens when stroke patients walk 10 times farther than they would in a standard physical therapy session.

Instead of walking once down an unobstructed hallway, for example, a patient is asked to walk around obstacles, to walk while things are bumping into him and to climb stairs. "We're really pushing them to the limit on how hard they can work," the researcher said.

First to enroll in the new Hornby-led study, Kirk was randomized into the experimental arm of the trial, rather than into the control group of patients who got standard therapy for comparison, Hornby said.

AP

This photo taken from video provided Aug. 5, 2012 by Sen. Mark Kirk's office, shows Sen. Mark Kirk at his home in Fort Sheridan, Ill.

That was pure luck, said Hornby, who said he felt no pressure to make sure Kirk got the experimental therapy and he believes Kirk would have stuck with the study if he had been randomly placed in the control group. The final results of the study aren't yet clear, but Hornby's preliminary work pointed toward promising improvements with the intensive therapy.

Back at his Highland Park home, Kirk says on the video that he's in touch with his office several times a day and is helping U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, find a replacement for U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, who announced his resignation in May.

Outside medical experts said the senator appears to be making excellent headway.

Cleveland Clinic stroke specialist Dr. Shazan Hussain said the video shows the senator has made outstanding progress and "likely will continue to get better and better." Asked whether Kirk might permanently need a cane to walk, Hussain said: "It's hard to know that for sure, but it seems likely he's going to require some kind of walking aid, like a cane."

Hussain noted the stigma that still exists among the general public about stroke and said he would encourage a patient like Kirk to deal with it by getting back to normal activities and routines, as the senator demonstrates he is doing in the video by meeting with other lawmakers. The doctor also praised Kirk for being an ambassador for stroke patients by putting out the video.

"This will be helpful to show people they can improve after a stroke because people potentially can get discouraged (during rehabilitation). I really compliment him on that," Hussain said. He noted that the type of stroke Kirk suffered, caused by a tear in the carotid artery on the right side of his neck, is unlikely to happen again.

Houston stroke expert Dr. Gerard Francisco, the chief medical officer of noted rehab center TIRR Memorial Hermann, watched the video and saw "a pretty remarkable recovery."

"I'm sure he worked hard toward this and it shows. It's quite significant," Francisco said, observing that Kirk seems engaged in his treatment and is getting "cutting edge therapy" at a reputable center. His reintegration into his work life also is a very encouraging sign, Francisco said.

Like Hussain, Francisco said he would expect Kirk to recover even more of his mobility and speech, but added it's difficult to make predictions during a stroke patient's first year of therapy. Francisco noted a slight stutter in Kirk's speech, while praising the senator's clarity and inflection.

"His speech was very clear. On very rare occasions, when he stuttered it was negligible," Francisco said. "I heard it probably only because I was listening for it."

Strokes can damage parts of the brain affecting mood, and the stress of relearning simple tasks and adjusting to stroke-caused impairments also can lead to depression. Asked about that possibility, Francisco said depression is much more common when a stroke damages the front left part of the brain. Kirk's stroke blocked blood flow to the right side of his brain.

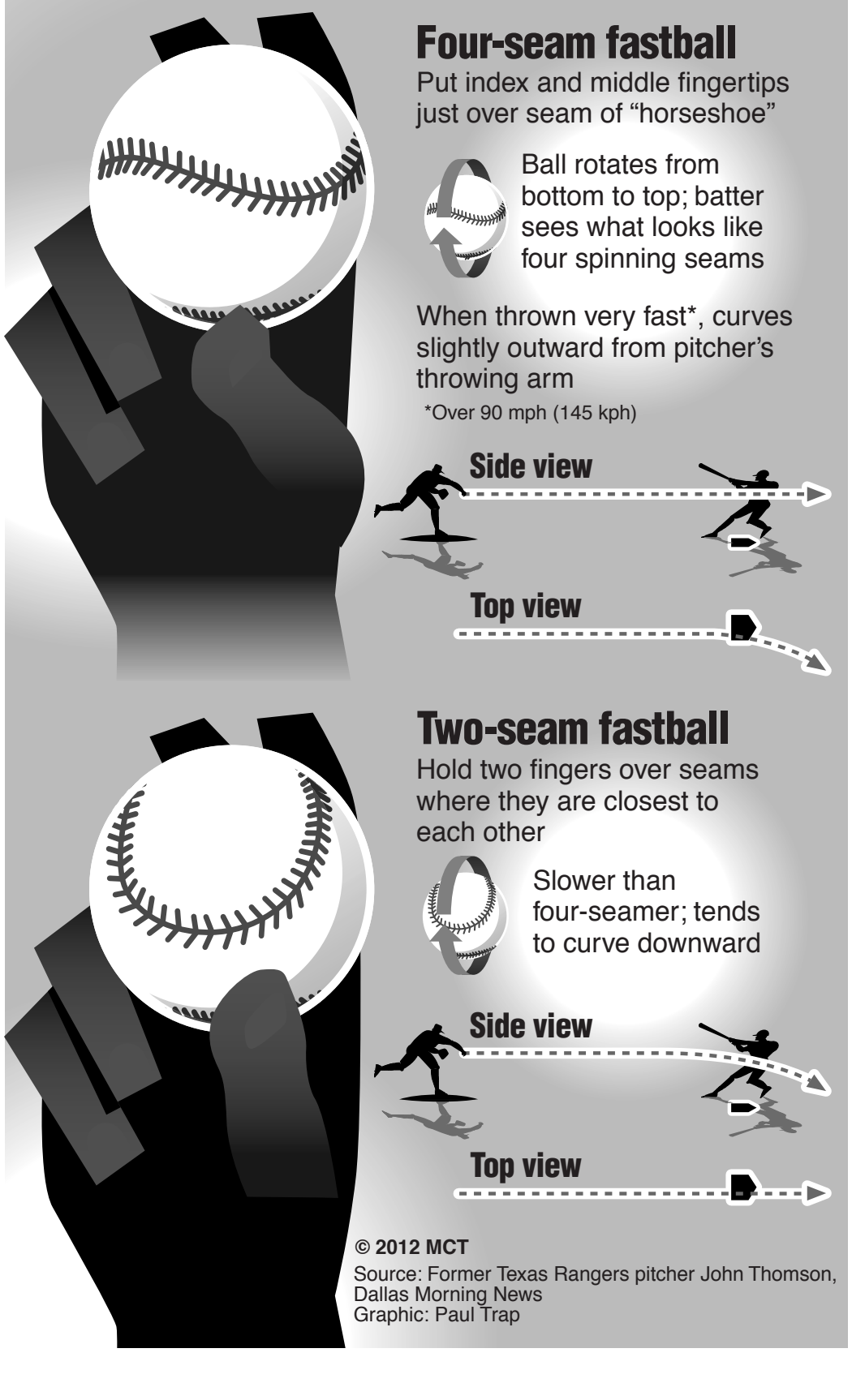
Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, and each year, about 795,000 Americans suffer a stroke. Some strokes are caused by bleeding in the brain, but most are caused by blocked blood flow, like Kirk's stroke.

"I released this video to make sure that people know what my condition is, to be an example to other Illinois families," Kirk says on the video. "I want to thank the people of Illinois for their patience with this patient to recover from a big stroke."

Personal Trainer

How to throw a fastball

The basic pitch in baseball is the fastball; young players first learn to throw strikes with the fast, accurate "four-seamer" type.


Four-seam fastball
Put index and middle fingertips just over seam of "horseshoe"
Ball rotates from bottom to top; batter sees what looks like four spinning seams
When thrown very fast*, curves slightly outward from pitcher's throwing arm
*Over 90 mph (145 kph)
Side view
Top view
Two-seam fastball
Hold two fingers over seams where they are closest to each other
Slower than four-seamer; tends to curve downward
Side view
Top view

© 2012 MCT

Source: Former Texas Rangers pitcher John Thomson, Dallas Morning News
Graphic: Paul Trap

Life & Style

Mel Stuart, director of 'Willy Wonka,' dead at 83

NEW YORK (AP)—Mel Stuart, an award-winning documentarian who also directed "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory," has died. He was 83.

His daughter, Madeline Stuart, said he died Thursday night of cancer at his home in Los Angeles.

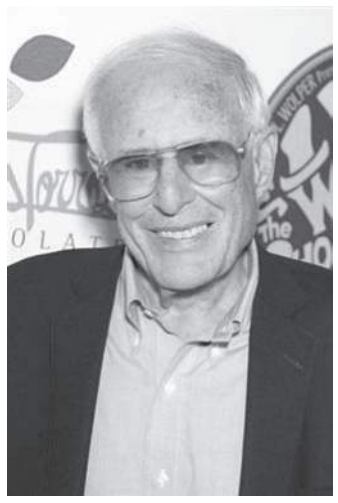
Stuart's documentaries include "The Making of the President 1960," for which he won an Emmy, as well as subsequent explorations of the 1964 and `68 campaigns. Other programs were "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" and the Oscar-nominated "Four Days in November."

His groundbreaking 1973 film "Wattstax" focused on the Wattstax music festival of the previous year and Los Angeles' Watts community in the aftermath of the 1965 riots.

But while Stuart's documentaries won acclaim and cemented his reputation, he won a special sort of following with the 1971 musical fantasy "Willy Wonka."

That film was his response to a young reader of the Roald Dahl children's classic "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory": Stuart's daughter Madeline asked her dad to make a movie of the book she loved. Starring Wilder as Willy Wonka (and with 11-year-old Madeline in a cameo role as a student in a classroom scene), it became an enduring family favorite.

A collaborator on "Willy Wonka" was screenwriter David Seltzer, who at 26 had gotten his first job in the film business—making documentaries—from Stuart and calls him "a mentor by way of drill sergeant, much-feared boss and much-loved friend."



AP

This Oct. 18, 2011 file photo originally released by Starpix shows Mel Stuart, director of the 1971 film, "Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory" at Jacques Torres Chocolates during an event promoting the 40th anniversary of the popular children's film and the Warner Home Video Ultimate Collector's Edition Blu-ray and DVD launch in New York.

Seltzer, who also wrote "The Omen" and last year's HBO film "Cinema Verite," said Friday that Stuart dismissed his first effort at a screenplay "with the scolding that if I didn't `have a drawer-full of magic,' I had no business even thinking I was a screenwriter. He taught me that good enough wasn't good enough."

During the 1960s and 1970s, Stuart was associated with David L. Wolper, with whom he established a base of West Coast documentary production at a time when New York filmmakers and TV networks' news divisions dominated the field.

By 1980, Stuart was an independent producer and director whose credits include portraits for PBS' "American Masters" on artist Man Ray and the director Billy Wilder. He was executive producer of the 1980s ABC series "Ripley's Believe It or Not," whose host was Jack Palance.

Airing on PBS in 2005, "The Hobart Shakespeareans" was Stuart's profile of a teacher in inner-city Los Angeles whose fifth-grade class each year performed a play by William Shakespeare.

He produced or directed various dramas including "The Triangle Factory Fire Scandal," "Ruby and Oswald" and the 1981 TV film "Bill," starring Mickey Rooney and Dennis Quaid, which won a Golden Globe and a Peabody award.

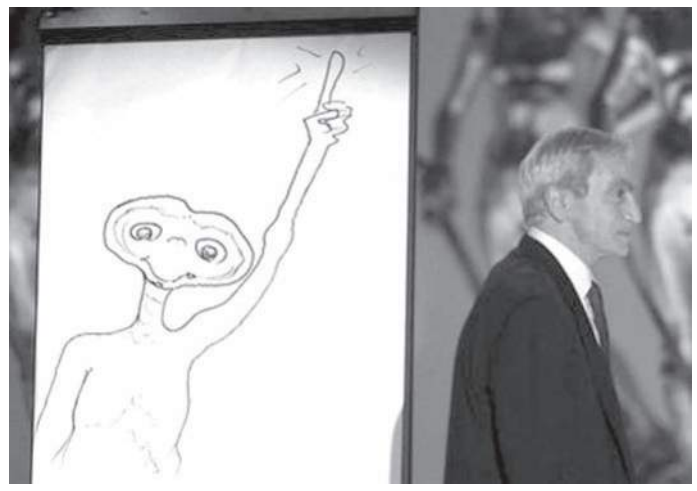
Italian special effects master Rambaldi dies at 86

MILAN (AP)—Carlo Rambaldi, a special effects master and three-time Oscar winner known as the father of "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial," died Friday in southern Italy after a long illness, Italian news media reported. He was 86.

Rambaldi won visual effects Oscars for Steven Spielberg's 1982 blockbuster, Ridley Scott's film ``Alien" in 1979, and John Guillermin's ``King Kong" in 1976.

"Carlo Rambaldi was E.T.'s Geppetto," said Spielberg, referring to the fictional character who created Pinocchio. " All of us who marveled and wondered at his craft and artistry are deeply saddened by the news of his passing."

Rambaldi worked on more than 30 films, but was best known for his work on E.T., for which he created three robots, two costumes worn by actors in the scenes when E.T. walked, and gloves for the hands.



AP

This April 10, 2002 file photo shows special effects artist Carlo Rambaldi walking on stage after drawing a cartoon of ET during the Italian David Di Donatello cinema awards in Rome's Cinecitta' studios.

Rambaldi, a wizard of a discipline known as mechatronics—which combines disciplines including mechanical, electronic and system design engineering—did not hide a disdain for computerized effects.

"Digital costs around eight times as much as mechatronics," Rambaldi was quoted by the Rome daily La Repubblica as having once said. ``E.T. cost a million dollars and we created it in three months. If we wanted to do the same thing with computers, it would take at least 200 people a minimum of five months."

In Celebration of His New Life

†Jesus Taitano Salas

BORN TO LIFE: SEPTEMBER 09, 1929 - CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE: AUGUST 07, 2012

In his new life; he now joins his:
Parents: *†Juan Rabago Salas & †Carmen Taitano Salas*
Parents-in-law: *†Jose Sablan Sablan & †Nieves Palacios Sablan*
Son: *†William S. Salas/†Jose S. Salas*
Grandson: *†Vinson Josh DLG. Salas*

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: *Fidelia Sablan Salas*

Children & Grandchildren:
Jose *Quitanilla (Bianca)*
†William *S. Salas (William, Alvin, Jocelyn & Ben, Robert)*
†Jose *S. Salas*
Francisco *S. and Rosa M. Salas (Gloria & Dominic, Delia & Bob, Selma)*
Ramon *S. Salas (Raymond & Divana, Richard, Rodney & Britania, Roy)*
Vicente *S. & Joaquina DLG. Salas (Virine Jay/Kim, Vachel, Jan Vilette)*
Joseph *S. Salas & Osa (Joseph, Michael, Jonathan)*
Lillian *S. & Larry Laveque (Joseph, Jason)*
Juan *S. Salas and Alicia (Kathleen, Joleen)*

Reared Daughter: Bernadita C. *& Pete Itibus (Ramona, Emma)*

Brothers/Sisters/In-Laws: †Vicente *C. & †Magdalena T. Salas;* ***†Ignacio*** *& †Gloria M. Celis; †Francisco &* ***†Francisca*** *S. Celis;* ***†Obit*** *& †Francisca S. Celis;* ***†Rosa*** *& †Regino Mundo;* ***†Dolores*** *S. & †Ramon T. Palacios;* ***†Jose*** *T. & †Margarita V. Salas;* ***Maria*** *S. & †Vicente P. DelosReyes;* ***Joaquin*** *T. & Maria (Meng) D. Salas;* ***Antonio*** *T. & Evelyn S. Salas;* ***†Juan*** *T. & †Bernadita R. Salas;* ***†Nicolas*** *T. & Trinidad (Tannie) DLC. Salas;* ***Rosalia*** *S. & Jesus T. Guerrero*

†Oswald & †Josepha Sablan; †Esperanza & †Mariano Cabrera; †Francisco C. & †Regina L. Sablan; †Carmen S. & †Antonio Reyes; †Rosa S. & †William Torres; †Felipe C. & Joaquina Sablan; Pedro C. & †Alejandra Sablan; †Jose C. & Antonia Sablan; †Maria C. Sablan; †Juan C. Sablan

He will also be missed by numerous great-grand children, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each morning at 6:00 am at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan and Holy Rosary is being prayed at 7:30 pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, August 15, 2012. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 07:30 am to Kristo Rai Church. Responso Service will be at 07:45 am followed by Holy Rosary at 08:00 am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am followed by Interment Service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

Fidelia Sablan Salas, Children and Families

Judge rules website violated Jackson copyrights

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal judge ruled Friday that a businessman working with Michael Jackson's mother has violated copyrights owned by the singer's estate and should be blocked from future uses of the work.

U.S. District Judge Dean Pregerson sided with the singer's estate in a ruling against Howard Mann and the website www.michaeljacksonsecretvault.com , which appeared to be inactive Friday morning.

The estate sued Mann in January 2011, claiming he was violating copyrights and posed unfair competition to Jackson's estate. Pregerson ruled that the website improperly used art from the film "This Is It," a logo featuring Jackson and the song "Destiny," as well as other material.

"In light of defendants' past and present infringement, it is also undisputed that future violations are likely, causing ongoing harm to plaintiffs and misled consumers," Pregerson wrote.

An upcoming trial will address damages, although the judge noted that Mann and the site probably will not be able to pay any amount because of debts.

AP

In this March 5, 2009 file photo US singer Michael Jackson announces that he is set to play ten live concerts at the London O2 Arena in July, which he announced at a press conference at the London O2 Arena.

A phone message for one of Mann's lawyers, Lee Durst, was not immediately returned Friday. Mann has collaborated with Katherine Jackson, who is a beneficiary of the singer's estate, on several projects, including a book of recollections about her son. Several of the Jackson Secret Vault releases occurred at the same time as estate projects were being released, including the anniversary of Jackson's death and the release of the album "Michael" in December 2010.

Mann's attorneys recently wrote in court filings that they hoped to introduce evidence during the upcoming trial that the singer's will was a fraud. The businessman had claimed he obtained rights to the works in a bankruptcy sale years ago, but Pregerson ruled there was no evidence that the items could be used commercially.

"The court's ruling makes clear that Howard Mann had no right to use Michael Jackson's intellectual property for his own benefit," attorney Zia Modabber, who represented the estate in the case, wrote in a statement. Estate attorney Howard Weitzman said executors John Branca and John McClain are "extremely pleased" by the ruling.

Russian official's tweet appears to target Madonna

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian deputy premier has made a rude statement apparently aimed at Madonna regarding her support for the jailed members of a Russian punk band awaiting a verdict in their trial.

Dmitry Rogozin didn't name Madonna when he tweeted this week that "every former w. wants to give lectures on morality when she grows old. Especially during foreign tours." By "w." he apparently meant "whore."

"Either take off your cross or put on your knickers," Rogozin added.

His remarks have drawn sarcastic tweets from those who recalled that Rogozin was a nationalist opposition leader before joining officialdom. "Why are you calling yourself a former whore, you are still on it," one of the tweets said.

Liz Rosenberg, Madonna's spokeswoman, had this to say about Rogozin on Friday: "Maybe he and Elton can form a Madonna fan club." Public comments that Elton John and Madonna have made about one another are often portrayed as a longstanding feud.

Just before Vladimir Putin returned to the Russian presidency, members of the feminist band high-kicked and danced in Moscow's main cathedral, singing "Virgin Mary, drive Putin away!"

Three Pussy Riot members have remained behind bars for more than five months and face up to three years if convicted of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred. A judge is to deliver a verdict on Aug. 17. .

AP

U.S. singer Madonna performs during her concert in St. Petersburg, Russia, Thursday, Aug. 9, 2012.

Their prosecution has drawn a storm of protests from rights groups who declared them prisoners of conscience and an outpouring of sympathy and support from musicians and activists around the world.

Madonna, who performed in Moscow and St. Petersburg as part of her world tour, expressed her support for Pussy Riot at Tuesday's concert in Moscow, saying she'd "pray for them." She then turned her bare back, with "Pussy Riot" written on it and donned a ski mask similar to those worn by the band.

Madonna told The Associated Press earlier during her stay in Moscow that she hopes that the judge is lenient with the band members and that they are freed soon.

Beastie Boys rapper's will bars ad use of his work

NEW YORK (AP)—The Beastie Boys' Adam Yauch rapped that he wouldn't "sell my songs for no TV ad." His will shows he wanted to make sure that held true after his death, too.

"In no event may my image or name or any music or any artistic property created by me be used for advertising purposes," says the will, filed this week in a Manhattan court. Yauch, known for his good nature as well as his raspy voice in one of hip-hop's groundbreaking acts, died of cancer in May. He was 47.

Also known as MCA, Yauch was a founding member of the Beastie Boys, a group that helped hip-hop gain mainstream attention in the 1980s. As white guys from Brooklyn in a genre with few credible white performers at the time, they emerged as prankster pioneers and scored such hits as "Brass Monkey," "No Sleep Till Brooklyn" and "(You Gotta) Fight for Your Right (To Party!)" They had four No. 1 albums and sold more than 40 million records.

It's not clear whether the provision in Yauch's will, first reported by Rolling Stone's website, covers all the Beastie Boys' output. His lawyer and the group's spokesman declined to comment Friday.

But the Beastie Boys have signaled that they are keeping a tight rein on commercial use of their work.

The surviving members, Michael "Mike D" Diamond and Adam "Ad-Rock" Horovitz, and Yauch's widow, Dechen Wangdu Yauch, sued the makers of Monster energy drink Wednesday over what the Beastie Boys say was an unauthorized, 23-minute medley of their music in a promotional video.

AP

In this May 12, 2009 file photo, musician Adam Yauch from the Beastie Boys, attends a special evening to honor artist Ross Bleckner's appointment as Goodwill Ambassador at the United Nations.

A representative for Corona, Calif.-based Monster Energy Co. didn't immediately return a call Friday.

As record sales have declined in the digital age, advertising has become an attractive outlet for many artists—and a source of debate among fans about the line between good business and selling out.

Some artists have openly criticized the practice. Grammy Award-winning singer Tom Waits has sued advertisers, ad agencies and his former record label over commercials that used his songs or featured people with similar voices singing them.

"Artists who take money for ads poison and pervert their songs. It reduces them to the level of a jingle," Waits wrote in a 2002 letter in The Nation magazine. He was responding to a piece earlier that year by The Doors' drummer, John Densmore, about turning down lucrative offers in the early 2000s for use of such songs as "Break On Through" and "When the Music's Over." Doors songs had been in commercials in the 1960s and `70s.

Levon Helm, the drummer and a singer for the The Band, fought an ad agency in court for years over the use of the rockers' "The Weight" in a cellphone commercial. He said he hadn't authorized it and called it "a complete, damn sellout of The Band."

An appeals court ruled against him in March. Helm died of throat cancer in April.

Yauch repeatedly made clear how he felt about allowing songs to be used in commercials.

"I might stick around or I might be a fad / But I won't sell my songs for no TV ad," he rapped in 1998's "Putting Shame In Your Game." A line in 2004's "Triple Trouble" says he "ain't selling out to advertisers."

Yauch stopped performing in public in 2009, when he was diagnosed with a cancerous salivary gland.

His will leaves his roughly $6 million estate to his widow and their 13-year-old daughter, Tenzin Losel Yauch.

Zakaria suspended for copying other writer's work

NEW YORK (AP)—Time editor-at-large and CNN host Fareed Zakaria has been suspended by both the magazine and the network for lifting several paragraphs by another writer for his use in a recent Time column.

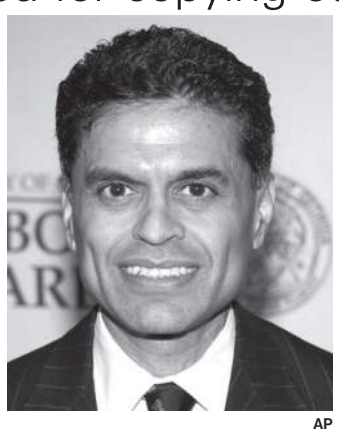
Zakaria apologized Friday, declaring in a statement he made "a terrible mistake," adding, "It is a serious lapse and one that is entirely my fault."

In a separate statement, Time spokesman Ali Zelenko said the magazine accepts Zakaria's apology, but would suspend his column for one month, "pending further review."

"What he did violates our own standards for our columnists, which is that their work must not only be factual but original; their views must not only be their own but their words as well," Zelenko said.

Shortly afterward, CNN said it had removed from the network's website a blog post that "included similar unattributed excerpts," and taken Zakaria off the air indefinitely.

"CNN has suspended Fareed Zakaria while this matter is under review," said CNN spokeswoman Jennifer Dargan. She said Zakaria's Sunday foreign-affairs program, "GPS," will have its time slots filled in the interim by "Your Money with Ali Veshi" and "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer."



AP

This May 21, 2012 file photo shows columnist and TV host Fareed Zakaria attending the 71st Annual Peabody Awards in New York.

Earlier Friday, media reporters had called attention to similarities between passages in Zakaria's column about gun control that appeared in Time's Aug. 20 issue, and paragraphs from an article on the same subject by Harvard University history professor Jill Lepore published in April in The New Yorker magazine.

In Zakaria's column, titled "The Case for Gun Control," he began one paragraph with the sentences: "Adam Winkler, a professor of constitutional law at UCLA, documents the actual history in `Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America.' Guns were regulated in the U.S. from the earliest years of the Republic."

A corresponding passage in Lepore's New Yorker essay, titled "Battleground America," begins: "As Adam Winkler, a constitutional-law scholar at U.C.L.A., demonstrates in a remarkably nuanced new book, `Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America,' firearms have been regulated in the United States from the start."

In Zakaria's statement, he apologized "unreservedly" to Lepore, as well as to his editors and readers.

Beyonce performs and films music video at UN

AP

In this photo provided by Parkwood Entertainment, singer Beyonce performs "I Was Here" in the United Nations General Assembly Hall, Friday, Aug. 10, 2012.

NEW YORK (AP)—Superstar singer Beyonce has serenaded a different New York City venue: The United Nations.

Beyonce performed her song "I Was Here" on Friday in the UN's General Assembly Hall in honor of World Humanitarian Day, which is Aug. 19. A music video of the performance will debut the same day.

Beyonce sang in front of hundreds, including Julia Stiles, R&B singer The-Dream and songwriter Diane Warren, who wrote the song.

Warren said in an interview that she initially called Beyonce's husband, Jay-Z, and played the song for him over the phone. He quickly called Beyonce, and days later she recorded it. It appears on her album "4," released last year.

Anderson Cooper hosted, saying with a laugh: "Is this what happens at the UN every Friday night?"

'Malcolm X' actor Albert Freeman Jr. dies at 78

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Albert Freeman Jr., the veteran actor who played Elijah Muhammad in Spike Lee's epic film, "Malcolm X," has died. He was 78.

Howard University in Washington, D.C., confirmed his death Friday night but details weren't immediately available. Freeman taught acting there for years and served as chairman and artistic director of its theater arts department.

"He was a brilliant professor, a renowned actor and a master director who made his mark in the classroom as well as on stage, screen and television. ... He has mentored and taught scores of outstanding actors. He was a resounding voice of Howard and will be missed," university spokeswoman Kerry-Ann Hamilton said in a statement.

Freeman earned an NAACP Image Award for playing Malcolm X's mentor in Lee's 1992 biography.

He also received an Emmy nomination for his role as Malcolm X in the 1979 miniseries "Roots: The Next Generations." He won a best-actor Daytime Emmy that year for his work as Capt. Ed Hall on the soap opera "One Life to Live."

Ann Curry returns to 'Today' set in London

LONDON (AP)—Ann Curry, replaced as one of the NBC's "Today" show hosts in June, made a return to the show's set in London.

Curry was on the "Today" set in London on Thursday to introduce a filmed report on a still photographer. She lost her job as Matt Lauer's co-anchor in June and was replaced by Savannah Guthrie.

Her story appeared in the show's second hour. She introduced it while sitting on the set next to Lauer, and had no on-air interactions with others on the "Today" team.

Curry's banter with Lauer seemed polite but distant. Lauer said "nice to see you" at the outset and "good to see you" at the end. Curry returned neither sentiment.

She had appeared on "Today" once since her ouster, reporting from Aurora, Colo., after the movie theater shooting there.

AP

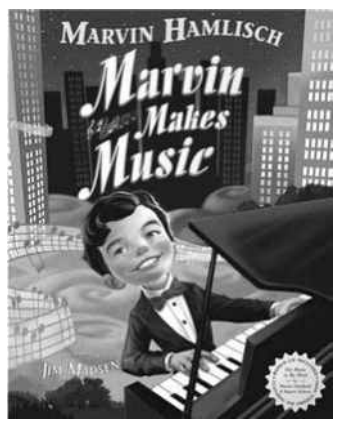
This April 24, 2012 file photo shows NBC's Ann Curry at the TIME 100 gala at the Frederick P. Rose Hall in New York.

Bittersweet release of Marvin Hamlisch kid book

NEW YORK (AP)—Marvin Hamlisch told his story in an autobiography for adults and was excited to do the same with a picture book that now has a bittersweet release after his death at age 68.

"Marvin Makes Music," illustrated by Jim Madsen, tells the true story of 6-year-old Hamlisch who was 25 minutes late to his audition for Juilliard when he and his dad got locked on the music school's roof. The grumpy judges giggled when they spotted his yellow jammies poking out from his trouser legs.

The book, for the Penguin imprint Dial, goes on sale Nov. 8 and includes a one-song CD. It was the first picture book for Hamlisch, who died Monday after a brief illness.



AP

This book cover image released by Dial Books for Young Readers shows "Marvin Makes Music," a children's book by Marvin Hamlisch and illustrated by Jim Madsen.

The composer had planned to promote the book.

Veteran Hollywood publicist Dale Olson dead at 78

AP

This 2010 image provided by The Actors Fund shows Dale Olson at the 2010 Actor Fund Tony Awards party in Los Angeles.

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Veteran Hollywood publicist Dale Olson, who represented such Hollywood legends as Marilyn Monroe, Gene Kelly and Alfred Hitchcock, and such current A-listers as Clint Eastwood, Shirley MacClaine and Steven Spielberg, is dead at age 78.

Spokesman Harlan Boll said Olson died early Thursday at a Burbank hospital after a long battle with cancer. Despite his struggle, Olson continued working until recently.

Perhaps Olson's most notable role was as the spokesman for Rock Hudson during the actor's widely publicized, ultimately fatal bout with AIDS in 1985. Olson is also credited with helping to launch the "Rocky," "Rambo," "Superman" and "Halloween" film franchises. He led numerous winning Oscar campaigns and was active in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and The Actors Fund.

Other Hollywood greats represented by Olson included Steve McQueen, Laurence Olivier, Tony Curtis and more.

Wedding weekend fans old flames into an affair

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: "Jane," the daughter of a life-long friend, attended my son's wedding with her husband. My son and Jane have known each other since childhood, and always flirted and acted as if they had a crush on each other.

To make a long story short, after seeing each other during the weekend, my son left his wife of only one month and started a long-distance relationship with Jane. Jane continues to live with her husband.

My son and Jane have been open about their relationship with everyone in our families except her father and her husband. Needless to say, those of us who know about this deceptive relationship are sick at heart and skeptical about who Jane's true love is—her husband or my son.

Jane's sister is being married soon. If Jane is still keeping my son in a closet, I don't want to see her at the upcoming wedding. There's a chance Jane's husband may not be going because there's evidence he might have an idea that his marriage is not healthy.

Should we attend the wedding to support my life-long friend, or stay away to avoid the pain of seeing the woman who has kept my son on a roller-coaster ride for years?

TO GO OR NOT TO GO?

DEAR T.G. OR NOT T.G.: Let me get this straight. Your son dumped his wife of only one month for a married woman, and you're worried about HIS pain? Stop involving yourself in this melodrama and let him work this out for himself. If Jane dumps her husband for him, he may have the girl of his childhood dreams. If she doesn't he will learn an important life lesson.

As to whether you should attend Jane's sister's wedding, take a Dramamine and go. It's going to be a thrill ride I wouldn't miss if I could get a ticket.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a frequent international traveler with a problem. I always pack food for myself to take onboard. My trips are often 20 hours or longer and involve several planes. I find many people neglect to pack any food and they wind up asking—or begging—me to give them some of mine. It's very awkward for me.

On one flight, I overheard a woman tell her son, "Go ask that man for some cookies," and the kid did come over. How do I handle this? There are times I have to spend five or seven hours in an airport after midnight waiting for the next flight, and that food is my reserve.

NOT STINGY IN FLORIDA

DEAR NOT STINGY: I'm glad you have given me the chance to remind travelers that the food on airplanes isn't what it was years ago—particularly for passengers flying coach. That's why it's important to plan ahead and bring something onboard -- fruit, candy, a sandwich—particularly when traveling with children.

Of course it's hard to refuse someone in a situation like the one you described. I suppose you could have told the child, "Didn't your mother warn you not to take food from strangers?" But then you'd have to live with the image of a hungry child sitting two rows back.

Sometimes you do have to "just say no." Explain that you have a long layover and need the emergency provisions for yourself. It may not win you many friends, but then, you are not running for office.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

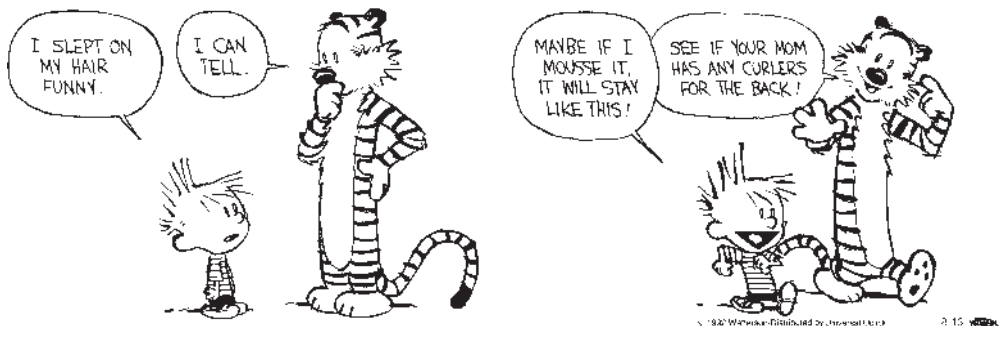
■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

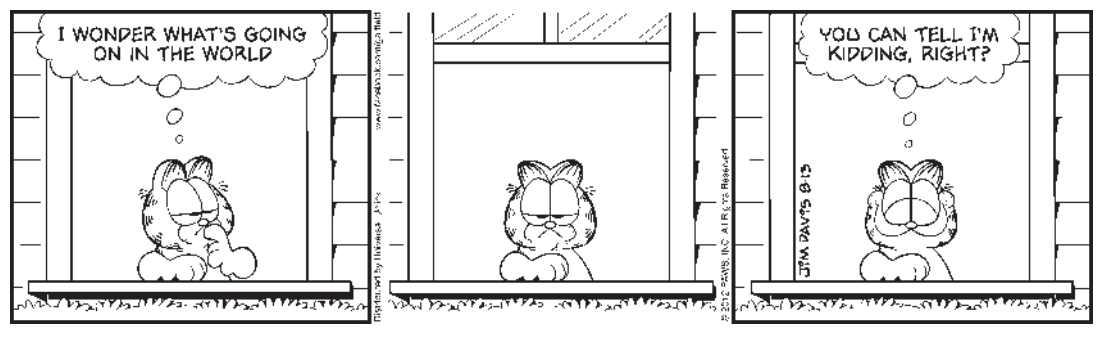
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



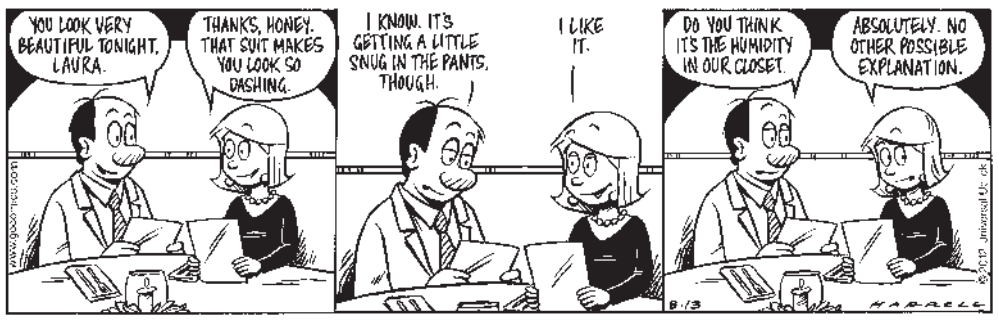
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU LOOK VERY BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT, LAURA.
THANKS, HONEY. THAT SUIT MAKES YOU LOOK SO DASHING.
I KNOW. IT'S GETTING A LITTLE SNUG IN THE PANTS, THOUGH.
I LIKE IT.
DO YOU THINK IT'S THE HUMIDITY IN OUR CLOSET.
ABSOLUTELY. NO OTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATION.
8/13

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 State leader (Abbr.)
4 Donkey
7 Talks on and on
11 First victim
13 Homer's interjection
14 Lecher's look
15 Had on
16 Make a mistake
17 Greek vowel
18 Skewered entree
20 Swerve
22 Namely (Abbr.)
24 Paid escort
28 Shameless hussy
32 Andrea — (ill-fated ship)
33 Tiny particle
34 Fix the soundtrack
36 — -do-well
37 Horses' neck adornments
39 Ardent
41 Laundry whitener
43 Female sheep
44 Cowardly one in Oz
46 Work
50 Game played on horseback
53 Charged bit
55 Reprehensible
56 "The Good Earth" heroine
57 Take to court
58 Paradise
59 Rim
60 Explosive letters
61 Drunkard

DOWN
1 Stare stupidly
2 Reed instrument
3 Predicate part
4 Summery quaff
5 Kind
6 Unspoken "I dunno"
7 Taking time off, GI-style
8 Past
9 Diner order, for short
10 The Red or the Black
12 "Get lost!"
19 Baby's mealtime garb
21 Disencumber
23 Londoners' last letter
25 Sandwich cookie
26 Stead
27 Rowing tools
28 Doorframe part
29 Listending abbr.
30 Region
31 Light (Sp.)
35 Spelling contest
38 Biol. or bot.
40 Puncturing tool
42 Jack up
45 3-Down's counterpart
47 Actions at auctions
48 Bread spread
49 Tenant's expense
50 Macabre author
51 On in years
52 Trail behind
54 Trawler need

Solution time: 24 mins.

	S	C	A	D	S		I	B	E	A	M	
A	C	A	D	I	A		M	A	G	G	O	T
B	Y	R	O	A	D		B	Y	G	O	N	E
U	T	E		M	A	R	I	S		R	A	N
T	H	F	N		T	U	B		F	A	D	F
S	E	R	I	F		E	E	R	I	E	S	T
			E	R	A		D	A	B			
A	B	S	C	O	N	D		P	E	T	A	L
R	A	C	E		I	R	K		R	O	B	E
A	N	Y		A	S	Y	E	T		B	A	A
B	Y	L	I	N	E		B	Y	P	A	S	S
S	A	L	I	N	E		A	P	O	G	E	E
	N	A	I	A	D		B	O	I	O	S	

Saturday's answer 8-13

1	2	3	■	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10
11			12	■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19	■	20		21		■	■	■
■	■	■	22		23	■	24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31	■	32				
33				■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40				
41					42	■	43			■	■	■
■	■	■	44			45	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52		■	53		54	■	55			
56				■	57			■	58			
59				■	60			■	■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shani Davis, 30; Debi Mazar, 48; John Slattery, 50; Dawnn Lewis, 51.

Happy Birthday: Decide what you have to do to benefit the most financially, and set your priorities so you can reach your goals. There is no room for laziness; put your paperwork in order and take care of pending matters that are slowing you down. Focus on maximizing your potential and eliminating your weaknesses. Your numbers are 5, 12, 21, 24, 35, 38, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Pressure due to personal responsibilities will grow. Push for what you want in a modest manner and you will overcome adversity. Expect to encounter ups and downs, but believe in your abilities and strive to be victorious in your pursuits. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Work alongside family, friends or neighbors to reach your goals. Stability and consistency will be required and should be the determining factor when faced with choices regarding who you work with and what you strive to accomplish. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone with experience will offer a solution that eliminates a problem. Call in favors and substantiate what is required to reach your goals. Your insight and unique way of presenting and promoting will pay off. Sincerity will be a determining factor. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Emotions will mount if you let your concerns fester. Speak up, and resolve issues that are stifling your ability to make the necessary moves to improve your life. An unusual lifestyle will fit your current situation and add to your creative ability. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do whatever it takes to improve your popularity or fix problems you feel obliged to resolve. You will get back what you put out and more. A move or changes at home will bring you greater happiness and success. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Talk to individuals who have the potential to help you reach your goals. Stick to simple solutions, and walk away from an unrealistic promise. Love is in the stars, but differences of opinion or background are likely to cause a setback. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let your emotions interfere with your professional progress. Do what you can to show off your skills and increase your chance to advance. Educational pursuits will bring high returns in the workforce. Do your best and excel. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Reconnect with people you miss or want to form an alliance with. Listen to the concerns of others, but don't take sides or meddle. Put more effort into establishing your feelings and intentions regarding someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Do what's right, even if it takes a little time. The changes you make will enhance your personal and financial life. Someone from your past can make a difference in your future. Set up a meeting with an old colleague, peer or boss. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Hold on to what you have. Refuse to let anyone put you in a position that limits what you can do. Added responsibilities will have an adverse affect on a personal relationship. Listen, but don't make promises. Protect your emotional wellness. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The past can positively influence the future if you utilize everything you've learned to come up with a way to move forward financially, legally or personally. A change regarding a negative relationship will enable you to improve your life. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Let your intuition guide you when it comes to affairs of the heart or important domestic decisions. A positive change at work can also enhance your personal life if those influenced by your choices have a say. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong, independent and curious. You strive to be your best.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8		3	4					9
	4		7		2			
2		9						1
5		8			4		1	
6								3
	1		3			2		4
3						7		6
				8	9		3	
7					1	8		5

Difficulty Level ★ 8/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	5	4	7	1	2	3	6	8
2	7	8	6	4	3	9	1	5
6	3	1	5	9	8	7	4	2
3	9	2	8	7	4	6	5	1
1	6	5	3	2	9	8	7	4
4	8	7	1	5	6	2	3	9
7	4	9	2	6	1	5	8	3
8	2	6	4	3	5	1	9	7
5	1	3	9	8	7	4	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

COYOTES Solution: 14 letters

L	I	A	T	Y	Y	E	L	P	S	S	S	C	S	K
S	Y	A	R	G	V	V	E	F	E	K	R	L	C	T
P	R	R	A	(H)	I	V	M	R	R	E	W	A	W	N
I	O	E	R	(S)	R	I	A	A	T	O	P	W	O	U
Y	D	C	I	(U)	A	H	B	S	H	E	G	S	R	H
L	E	O	D	(B)	F	L	K	N	T	J	F	S	G	A
G	N	I	N	N	U	C	T	O	E	S	L	U	E	A
U	T	E	A	E	I	S	Y	R	D	H	O	C	V	R
E	P	K	B	R	E	O	O	N	T	R	W	Y	I	O
T	R	I	T	R	C	V	A	O	O	K	D	T	T	V
O	A	L	O	E	I	L	O	A	L	I	E	F	P	I
Y	I	F	E	N	D	T	I	B	B	A	R	A	A	N
O	R	L	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	S	R	D	R
C	I	O	O	B	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	C	A	A
W	E	W	O	O	D	S	A	T	A	D	R	O	H	C

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderwordcom Join us on Facebook 8/13

Adaptive, Band, Barks, Blue, Bush, Carnivora, Carrion, Chordata, Claws, Coyote Ugly, Crafty, Cunning, Forest, Frogs, Furry, Gray, Grow, Hares, Howls, Hunt, Mountains, Observant, Omnivore, Pack, Prairie, Rabbit, Red Wolf, Rodent, Rough, Savvy, Tail, Tooth, Tree, Trickster, Vision, Wile E. Coyote, Wolf-like, Woodlands, Woods, Yelps, Yips

Last Saturday's Answer: Rio Games

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 send $5.25 each (15 items or $1 per word) to Universal Uclick, $ sign to the first book ord., $ (all orders add sales tax) Send to: UCLICK, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll free 1-800-591-6963 Order online at www.uclick.com/puzbooks (Add $4.95 shipping & handling per order)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Alexander Inc. is looking for an Accountant. Must have at least 5 years of experience. Knowledge in QuickBooks & MS Excel is an advantage. Call 234-5117.

MOVING SALE

Computer Desks, Computer Monitors, Sofa Loveseat, Dining Sets, Shelves, Kitchen Wares, Coffee Table, Night Stands, Hutch, etc. Pls Call Leslie 323-1217

WANTED TO BUY

We're buying '95 & Up used cars! Transaction only within 30 mins. Call 287-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

SANDY BEACH HOMES Energy efficient 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695. 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-029

Opening Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2012
Closing Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Administrative Support Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Purchasing Officer or his/her designee. Drafts a variety of documents such as memorandums, correspondence, reports, and schedules. Performs routine clerical support duties to include: preparing certifications; maintaining databases; performing data entry; filing; faxing; copying; routing documents and information; separating and sorting documents; uploading and downloading routes; restocking supplies; scheduling appointments; and, typing. Explains CUC and departmental policies and procedures. Coordinates supervisor's schedule and screens/ responds to supervisor's routine messages. Collects, receives, processes, sorts, and distributes a variety of correspondence, documents, deliveries, and mail. Responds to requests for information and provides assistance with completing departmental paperwork; resolves customer complaints. Compiles, reviews and processes timecards. Attends and takes minutes at meetings; gathers and organizes information to be discussed on the agenda. Makes and coordinates travel arrangements. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: CUC Purchasing Office; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $19,425.00 to $25,231.00 per annum; un-classified, un-graded.
POSITION: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program). Associates Degree in related field is preferred. Four (4) years of proven work experience in purchasing or procurement and supply. Proven experience in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel, in Microsoft Office 2007 or later is preferred. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Phone etiquette; Modern office procedures, methods, and equipment; Basic filing and record keeping principles. Skill in: Providing customer service; Preparing reports; Prioritizing work; Providing customer service; Alphabetizing and filing; Keyboarding; Using modern office equipment; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

QQ CAR RENTAL, SAN ANTONIO
M&J BEAUTY SALON
Massage (60 mins) $15.00
Facial Care for $15.00
Manicure & Pedicure starting at $5.00
In front of PIC Z Bldg. • 10:30am - 9:30pm
Tel #s: 888-1354, 234-8855

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $29.99 without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-LB-100

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 30, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FORTY (40) TABLETS FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY CONTACT MR. PATRICK SEMAN AT (670) 664-8954.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MELCHOR MENDIOLA
DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE BUREAU

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-030

Opening Date: Wednesday, August 8, 2012
Closing Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2012

Senior Engineering Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Power Division (Transmission and Distribution) Manager or his/her designee. Prepares equipment for use on projects to include inspecting to ensure is working properly. Performs field duties to include: collecting and gathering data; determining assembly requirements; preparing data for drawings; clearing underground facilities; providing storm damage assessments; conducting field inventories; conducting testing; conducting severance verifications by locating and verifying boundaries; conducting verifications on materials; and, conducting land title research. Prepares drawings, plans, as-builts and land acquisition documents; performs engineering calculations. Receives incoming applications and prepares daily assignments. Prepares and submits a variety of reports and documents to include securing permits. Prepares staking sheets to determine the cost of the required work as stated in the application. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: Power Division (T & D); Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $23,200.00 to $31,324.00 per annum; un-classified, un-graded.
POSITION: Two (2).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Associate Degree in Construction Management, or a related field and two years of senior engineering technician experience. Knowledge of: Public rights of way; CADD programs; Global Positioning Systems; National Electric Code; Mathematics; Basic engineering concepts. Skill in: Drafting; Preparing engineering drawings using CADD; Preparing charts and graphs; Performing mathematical calculations; Performing basic engineering calculations; Solving problems; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must already have a U.S. or CNMI driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?
You're looking at it!
Saipan Tribune **235-6397**

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

CHANT

WHATZIT? © 2012 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Howard starting over with Lakers

LONDON (AP)— Dwight Howard held some of the championship trophies in the Los Angeles Lakers' facility Friday, the first act of the next phase of his NBA career.

"Making some wishes," Howard said.

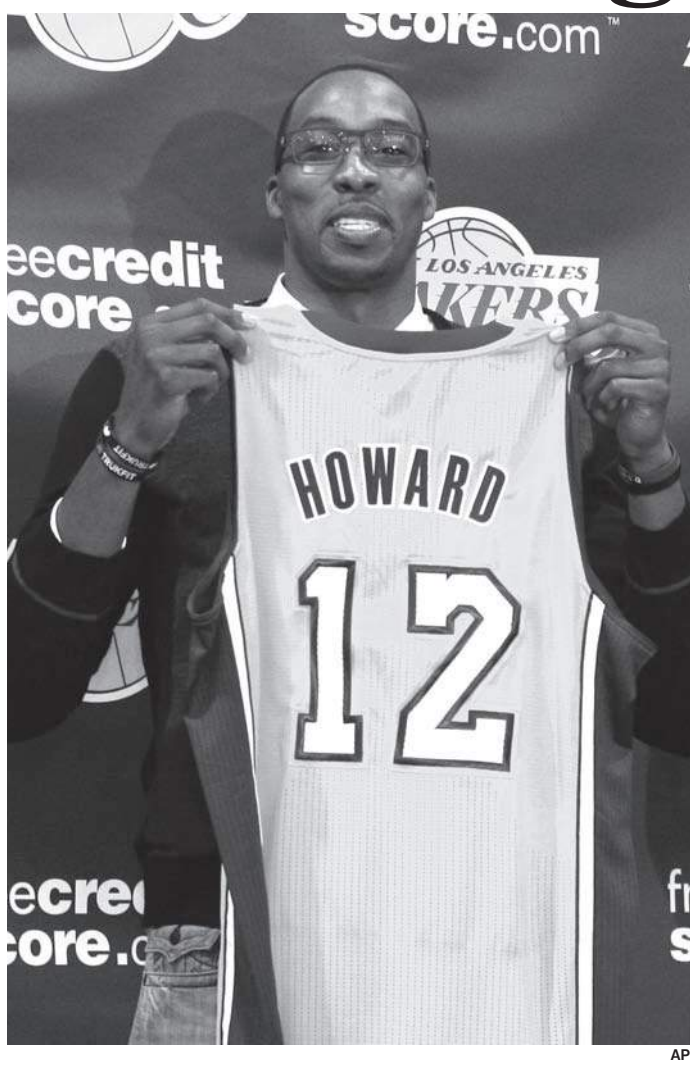
One of his wishes has finally come true. At long last, he's out of Orlando.

It took four teams, 11 other players, five draft picks and countless rounds of talks over many months, but the Orlando Magic decided the time was right to start over without the NBA's best center and end a saga that has dogged the franchise for what seems like an eternity.

Howard is off to play alongside Kobe Bryant in Los Angeles, after a megadeal involving the Lakers, Magic, Philadelphia and Denver was worked out Thursday and completed Friday after the NBA reviewed and approved the particulars.

"It was just a very tough situation for everybody to let go," Howard said. "I'm finally glad that it's over with. Myself and the Magic organization, we can all start over and begin a new career. Today is a fresh new start for all of us."

As far as the other headliners involved, Andrew Bynum leaves the Lakers for Philadelphia and Andre Iguodala is heading to Denver.



AP

Center Dwight Howard, newly acquired by the Los Angeles Lakers from the Orlando Magic, poses with his new jersey at a news conference Friday, Aug. 10, 2012, at the NBA basketball team's headquarters in El Segundo, Calif. Howard was traded to the Lakers, the last act of his long, drawn-out departure from the Magic.

"Are we taking a step back? Absolutely, we are," Magic general manager Rob Hennigan said. "But we're taking a step back with a vision."

Even while otherwise busy at the London Olympics, Bryant quickly proclaimed that the Lakers are "locked and loaded to bring back the title." He spoke with Howard on Friday morning, and interrupted his pursuit of a gold medal - the Americans will play for another of those Sunday—to talk about how the Lakers look very much like a major contender for another NBA title.

"I'll probably play two or three more years. Then the team is his," Bryant said. "I'm excited for the franchise because now they have a player that can carry the franchise well after I'm gone. This should be his and he should want to accept that challenge."

Time will tell.

Howard, who may not be ready for the start of the season while continuing to recover from back surgery that he had performed in Los Angeles four months ago, plans to become a free agent next July. He could stay with the Lakers. He could end up in Dallas, which should have oodles of cap space. Maybe the Brooklyn Nets—one of Howard's preferred destinations throughout this saga—find a way into the mix again.

"I told him this is a great place for him," Bryant said. "You talk about all the great centers this team has had. Now he's the next in line."

Bryant said the Lakers should be poised to win now. The Magic, they might not be saying that for years.

After an offseason when the Magic fired coach Stan Van Gundy and general manager Otis Smith, they're now truly beginning anew. In 1996, the Magic watched Shaquille O'Neal sign as a free agent with the Lakers. At least this time, when they lost someone with the "Superman" nickname, they got something back.

"Next season, and really subsequent seasons, are going to be about getting better every day," Hennigan said.

Orlando got guard Arron Afflalo and forward Al Harrington from Denver, forward Moe Harkless and center Nikola Vucevic from Philadelphia, and forward Josh McRoberts and guard Christian Eyenga from the Lakers. The Lakers acquired Howard, guard Chris Duhon and forward Earl Clark from Orlando. The Magic also traded guard Jason Richardson to Philadelphia.

Orlando also gets five draft picks over five years.

"There will be no panic," Magic coach Jacque Vaughn said. "There will be no chaos."

The Lakers pulled off the deal and somehow kept Pau Gasol in the process—something many didn't expect when the Los Angeles first started getting mentioned in the Howard trade mix.

Nova rebounds as Yankees beat Blue Jays, 5-2

TORONTO (AP) — Ivan Nova ended a five-start winless streak and Casey McGehee hit a three-run homer as the New York Yankees won their fourth straight game Saturday, beating the Toronto Blue Jays 5-2.

Derek Jeter had two hits, boosting his American League-leading total to 150 and joining Hank Aaron as the only players to record 17 straight seasons with at least 150 hits.

Rajai Davis had two hits and scored twice but it wasn't enough as slumping Toronto lost its fifth straight and for the 11th time in 13 games.

Indians 5, Red Sox 2

In Cleveland, Brent Lillibridge homered, drove in two runs and scored on a squeeze bunt to back Zack McAllister's strong pitching as Cleveland beat Boston.

Lillibridge, acquired on July 24 from Boston, tied a career high with three hits. He hit his first homer in nearly a year and had an RBI single off Franklin Morales (3-2).

Rangers 2, Tigers 1

In Arlington, Texas, rookie Mike Olt's pinch-hit RBI single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning scored Nelson Cruz with the winning run in Texas' victory over Detroit.

Olt drove a 2-2 pitch from Phil Coke past diving third baseman Miguel Cabrera and into left field.

Rays 4, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, B.J. Upton hit two home runs Matt Joyce also homered, and David Price earned his 15th victory as Tampa Bay stretched its winning streak to five by topping Minnesota.

Ben Zobrist went 3-for-4 for the Rays, who have won 10 of 13 and kept pace in the AL East and AL wild card races.

Athletics 9, White Sox 7

In Chicago, Jonny Gomes homered to level the game, and Brandon Inge hit a go-ahead single as Oakland scored twice in the eighth inning and beat Chicago.

Oakland had a five-run third and led 5-2, but the White Sox rallied and took a 7-6 lead in the seventh on A.J. Pierzynski's RBI single off Ryan Cook (5-2).

Mariners 7, Angels 4

In Anaheim, California, Hisashi Iwakuma took a four-hitter into the eighth inning and John Jaso homered as Seattle ended a five-game losing streak with a victory over Los Angeles.

Angels rookie phenom Mike Trout robbed Miguel Olivo of a two-run homer in the eighth inning.

Royals 7, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Alex Gordon hit two of Kansas City's four home runs and Luis Mendoza took a shutout into the seventh inning in a win over Baltimore after the start of the game was delayed by rain for more than three hours.

Salvador Perez and Billy Butler also connected for the Royals.

Braves 9, Mets 3

In New York, Freddie Freeman had five RBIs in the first two innings as the Atlanta Braves battered Johan Santana in his return from the disabled list to rout the sluggish New York Mets.

Kris Medlen (3-1) pitched effectively into the seventh inning, striking out seven while improving to 2-0 since joining the rotation.

Padres 5, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Jason Marquis took a no-hitter into the seventh inning before settling for a two-hitter as San Diego won its 11th straight game in Pittsburgh.

Travis Snider broke up the bid with an infield single off the pitcher's mound leading off the seventh inning.

Cardinals 4, Phillies1

In Philadelphia, Matt Holliday hit a three-run homer and Jake Westbrook won his fifth straight start to lead St. Louis to a victory over Philadelphia.

Cliff Lee (2-7) retired 12 straight before the Cardinals tagged him for consecutive hits to open the sixth inning.

Marlins 7, Dodgers 3

In Miami, Carlos Lee hit one of the Marlins' season-high five doubles and drove in two runs to lead Miami to a win over Los Angeles.

Ricky Nolasco (9-11) allowed two runs and nine hits in five innings for Miami.

Giants 9, Rockies 3

In San Francisco, Buster Posey hit a homer and drove in two runs to back Matt Cain's seven solid innings as San Francisco beat Colorado.

Cain (11-5) gave up two runs on seven hits in 7 1-3 innings, and added an RBI single, to win for the first time since July 15.

Reds 4, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Ryan Ludwick hit a two-run double in the eighth inning as Cincinnati rallied to a win over Chicago.

After Drew Stubbs doubled and Brandon Phillips singled off Cubs reliever James Russell (5-1), Ludwick looped a pitch down the left-field line and into the corner.

Astros 6, Brewers 5, 10 innings

In Houston, Scott Moore hit an RBI single with none out in the bottom of the 10th inning to lift Houston over Milwaukee.

Jose Altuve led off the 10th with an infield single off Jim Henderson (0-1).

Nationals 6, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Ryan Zimmerman singled in two of Washington's five runs in the fifth inning as the Nationals rallied to beat Arizona, stretching their season-best winning streak to eight games.

Jason Werth and Michael Morse each had an RBI double in Washington's big inning.

McIlroy, Singh tied for lead in rain-delayed PGA

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Tiger Woods watched the flight of his tee shot until he could see it drifting too far right, and he hung his head slightly as the ball tumbled off the green. Already with three bogeys in seven holes, it looked as though nothing was going right for him in the PGA Championship.

Dark clouds seem to have followed Woods on the weekend at majors this year. On Saturday at Kiawah Island, they might have saved him.

Facing a 7-foot putt to avoid another bogey, the darkening sky crackled with thunder and play was suspended with 26 players having to return for a marathon finish Sunday. That might be good news for Woods, not so much for Rory McIlroy.

McIlroy raced to the top of the leaderboard, and not even a tee shot that lodged into a tree on the third hole could slow him. Once he finally found it stuck in a rotted section of a thick limb, he took a penalty drop and drilled his wedge to 6 feet to save par.

He went out in 32 after a bogey on the ninth hole and was at 6-under par, tied with Vijay Singh, who was on the par-3 eighth hole.

"It's nice going into the final day—hopefully, if we get it finished—in a great position," McIlroy said. "And it being 27 holes, I definitely don't mind. I don't mind if it takes a while to get done."

Singh started and finished his short day with birdies—an 18-foot putt on the first, and a 25-foot putt on the par-5 seventh.

Right behind was Adam Scott, showing more magic than hangover from his British Open collapse last month. Scott was three shots out of the lead when the third round began and cruising along with pars until four birdies on the last five holes of the front nine. That stretch began with a shot he holed from a sandy area on the par-3 fifth, and it ended with a 45-foot birdie putt across the green on the ninth.

"Right now I am in good position," Scott said. "Unfortunate not to continue because I was on a little bit of a run. But hopefully, I'll come back out and play 27 good ones tomorrow."

About the only players disappointed to see the windswept third round end were the players who had already finished - Bo Van Pelt (67) at 3-under 213, Steve Stricker (67) at 2-under 214, Padraig Harrington (69) another shot behind.

And Woods.

"I got off to a rough start today and couldn't get anything going," Woods said through a spokesman. "I'll come back tomorrow morning and see what happens. There are a lot of holes left to play."

He failed to birdie the par-5 second hole when he tugged his approach into the back bunker and only blasted out to 20 feet. The real damage came on the third hole, the one that saved McIlroy. Woods hit a wedge into 4 feet, and his birdie putt raced by the edge of the cup.

It unraveled after that. He hit a spectator with his tee shot at No. 4, signing a glove for the fan, went over the green and muffed a difficult chip. Woods had to make a 4-foot bogey putt, and then hit another low hook that led to bogey on the fifth.

US poised to win overall medals race

LONDON (AP)—With one day of competition left at the London Games, the United States has locked up the overall medal race and is holding off the Chinese in the chase for the most gold.

It will be the fifth straight Summer Games where U.S. athletes took home more prizes than anyone else from an Olympics.

Swimming, track and field, basketball, women's soccer, Serena Williams and gymnast Aly Raisman have all been highlights for U.S. Olympic Committee chairman Larry Probst.

AP

Gold medalist team of the United States waves on the podium of the women's basketball event at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012, in London.

"I like to hear 'The Star-Spangled Banner'—a lot," Probst said.

Good thing, because the U.S. national anthem has blared more than any other in London over these last two weeks, and that won't change before the Olympic flame is extinguished on Sunday night. Through Saturday's medal events, U.S. Olympians in London had claimed 102 medals, 15 more than the Chinese. Americans were also leading the gold-medal chase over China, 44-38.

"The Olympic motto is faster, higher, stronger. And I think that every American came here to do that," U.S. judo gold medalist Kayla Harrison said Saturday. "Not necessarily fastest, highest, strongest, but I came here to perform at my very, very best and make America proud as a result."

She wasn't alone.

American swimmers won 31 medals. Track and field now has 29, one marathon medal on Sunday away from getting to 30—a goal that seemed far-fetched to some in the U.S. Olympic movement not long ago. Gabby Douglas won the women's all-around competition in gymnastics, Raisman left that venue with three medals and Williams won Olympic gold at Wimbledon over Maria Sharapova in what Probst said was "the most dominating performance I have ever seen by a female tennis player, ever."

Williams rolled over Sharapova that day, 6-0, 6-1.

Most of the other Americans weren't quite that dominant—but weren't exactly slackers, either.

"Yeah, we like to come in first. There's nothing wrong with that," Probst said. "This is a competition and I think it's absolutely great that we're leading in the medal count, both on golds and in total. The last time we won both gold and the total was in Athens, so it's been a while. I think it feels good to see our athletes be so successful on the field of play."

USOC CEO Scott Blackmun said about 200 American athletes will leave London with a medal, a figure buoyed by success in plenty of team sports. If his estimate of 200 holds, that would mean roughly 38 percent of the U.S. athletes competing at the games would make at least one trip to the award podium.

"One of our primary objectives is to get as many American athletes on the podium as we can," Blackmun said.

Blackmun said before the Olympics that the U.S. was obviously hopeful of winning the medal chase again, but never revealed if the committee had a specific target number.

On Saturday, Blackmun did say that the way the games have panned out was "pretty darn close" to the U.S. expectations.

"For me, it's not a competition in medal count against somebody else," said U.S. decathlete Ashton Eaton, a gold medalist in London and the world-record holder in his event. "I think if you just are cheering your country on and you're just trying to beat whoever is in front of you in your competition, the medals take care of themselves, really."

Probst gave high praise on Saturday to the way London organizers put the Olympics together, and a number of U.S. athletes also raved about the logistics—from buses running on time to the quality of the Olympic village.

Probst, however, took one good-natured shot at London organizing committee head Sebastian Coe, who said earlier this year that he expected China to take away more medals than anyone else.

"The only thing that Seb got slightly wrong was he predicted that we would come in behind China in the medal count," Probst said. "And I told him back in April that we were going to work really, really hard to prove him wrong."

So this medals win might be a bit sweeter for the Americans than the most recent ones that came at Atlanta, Sydney, Athens and Beijing.

"The American public has high expectations for our Olympic team and our Olympic athletes," Probst said. "There was a lot of speculation about where we would finish as a team. And a lot of people predicted that we might finish second and some even suggested third. So we're extremely proud of what our team has accomplished and what our athletes have accomplished."

Olympics will close with a thunderous party

LONDON (AP)—Party! Party! Party!

London is preparing to close out a two-week festival of sports in Olympic style, with a thunderous celebration of British music, from the classical compositions of Elgar to the classic rock of The Who.

A star-studded closing ceremony Sunday night will be long on fun—a dancing, stomping, psychedelic exaltation of what Britain does best, exporting a head-shaking amount of talent to the world.

The spectacle, which artistic director Kim Gavin promises will be "the best after-show party that's ever been," will have something for everyone—the Spice Girls, George Michael, Annie Lennox, Muse and many, many other stars mixed in.

There'll be plenty of fireworks and colored lights, acrobats, gymnasts, drummers, supermodels and other surprises to keep the crowd—and a television audience of tens of millions—entertained late into the night.

The best seats are for the 10,800 Olympic athletes, who will march in as one and form what Gavin has described as a human mosh pit on the field. Queen Elizabeth II, who made a memorable mock parachute entrance at the opening ceremony, will be on hand.

Eight minutes have been turned over to Brazil, host of the 2016 Rio Games, which promises an explosion of samba, sequins and Latin cool. Following tradition, London Mayor Boris Johnson will hand the Olympic flag off to his Rio counterpart.

There will also be speeches by International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge and London organizing committee chief Sebastian Coe, and the extinguishing of the Olympic flame.

What a way to end a games far more successful than many Londoners expected. Security woes were overcome, traffic and transportation nightmares never materialized, and Britain had its biggest medal haul since 1908.

The United States was poised to edge China in both the gold medal and total medal standings, recapturing the gold-medal title it lost four years ago, but Britain will finish third in golds.

And while the games may have lacked some of the drama and grandeur of the Beijing Olympics in 2008, there were some unforgettable moments.

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt became an Olympic legend by repeating as champion in both the 100-meter and 200-meter sprints. Michael Phelps ended his long career as the most decorated Olympian in history. British favorite daughter Jessica Ennis became a global phenomenon with her victory in the heptathlon.

Female athletes took center stage in a way they never had before. American gymnast Gabby Douglas soared to gold, the U.S. soccer team's made a dramatic march to the championship. Packed houses that turned out to watch the new event of women's boxing. And women competed for Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brunei took part for the first time.

And then there was Oscar Pistorious, the double-amputee from South Africa running on carbon-fiber blades, who didn't win a medal but nonetheless left a champion. And sprinter Manteo Mitchell, who completed his leg of the 4x400 relay semifinal on a broken leg, allowing his team to qualify and win silver.

Coe refused to anoint the games "the best ever," in the phrase former International Olympic Committee chief Juan Antonio Samaranch used to describe almost every games. But he declared himself "very, very pleased."

He said the closing ceremony didn't aim to be profound, not even the irreverent romp through British history offered by Danny Boyle's $42 million spectacle on opening night.

The theme for the close, Coe said, could be summed up in three words. "Party. Party. Party."

3 for 3: Bolt breaks relay record, gets more gold

LONDON (AP)—This time, Usain Bolt ran hard right to the finish.

Leaned at the line, even.

Having built a big lead on the 4x100-meter relay anchor leg, Bolt knew he was about to earn his third gold medal in three events at the London Olympics.

What he really wanted Saturday night was a world record, the only thing missing from his 2012 Games. So the Jamaican dispensed with the sort of "Look at me!" stuff he's done at the end of races before—slapping his chest four years ago, putting a finger to his mouth to hush critics the other day—and focused on what he does better than anyone ever has.

Sprinting.

"Fans really enjoy a world record," Bolt said later with a smile, "so I think they'll forgive me for not posing."

Almost even with the last U.S. runner when he got the baton, Bolt pulled away down the stretch and capped his perfect Olympics by leading Jamaica to the relay victory in a world-record 36.84 seconds.

"A wonderful end to a wonderful week," Bolt said. "What else do I need to do to prove myself as a legend?"

After the win, he held up three fingers, one for each of his golds.

He is now 6 for 6 in Olympic finals over his career—breaking four world records in the process, including three in Beijing in 2008.

Bolt also heads home with an extra souvenir.

After winning Saturday, he pleaded with an official to let him keep the yellow baton he was clutching. Told he'd be disqualified if he didn't hand it over, Bolt complied, and some nearby spectators booed. About 40 minutes later, that same official approached Bolt and returned the stick. Bolt responded with a bow of thanks and a chuckle, kissed the baton—and then asked his teammates to autograph it.

One more possession to help him remember his performances at 80,000-seat Olympic Stadium, where any mention of Bolt's name drew raucous cheers, countless camera flashes and chants of "Usain!" or "We want Bolt!"

He reiterated that this could be it for him on track and field's biggest stage. Bolt turns 26 on Aug. 21, and refuses to commit to showing up at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

"It's going to be hard to really do that. I've done all I want to do," said Bolt, noting that he planned to go out on the town Saturday night. "I've got no more goals."

Bolt also earned medals in the 100 in 9.63 seconds last Sunday—the second-fastest time in history—and the 200 in 19.32 on Thursday. The runner-up in both individual sprints, Bolt's pal and training partner Yohan Blake, ran the third leg of the relay, following Nesta Carter and Michael Frater.

The U.S. quartet of Trell Kimmons, 100 bronze medalist Justin Gatlin, Tyson Gay and Ryan Bailey got the silver in 37.04, equaling the old record that Bolt helped set at last year's world championships. Trinidad & Tobago took the bronze in 38.12. Canada, which was third across the line, was disqualified for running outside its lane, and its appeal was rejected.

As Blake and Gay rounded the race's final curve, they were pretty much in sync, stride for stride.

Rollers' youth program draws crowd

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 30 players ages 6 to 13 are participating in the Rollers Basketball Club's RECTIFY Summer Youth Basketball Program at the Koblerville court.

The program had a late start due to rain, but has been going on-and-off for almost two weeks in the southern region of the island. The program's popularity has been growing steadily, as players from the neighboring villages of San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa and Kanatabla have also been joining the action.

Players are learning warm-up skills and rules of the game as specified by FIBA. They started scrimmages over the weekend and are hoping to field a couple of teams to take on other groups in a tournament setting at the conclusion of the program, which will most likely take place in Garapan.

The group will stay in Koblerville this week, but want to encourage interested participants in the Kagman area to start registering now to have a good size of group ready when the program shifts to the northern end of the island.

After its stint at the Kagman II court, RBC will return to Garapan where it will finish the series of events.

Participants are being divided into two groups with the first composed of players from the 6 to 10 age group and the second for the 11 to 13 division.

Participants in RBC's Rectify Summer Basketball Program perform warm-up drills in last Friday's session at the Koblerville court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

"Things are going great in Koblerville and we are very happy to see so many parents showing up and giving their support. They helped clean the area around the court and it was nice to see them step up and make their own impact in the community. The court itself is in decent shape, however the kids wish they had sufficient lighting at night," said RBC head coach Joe Diaz in an interview during a break in last Friday's session.

Diaz also thanked Arby Camacho and Tony Sablan, and the Division of Youth Services, which helped RBS secure a grant funding for the implementation of its RECTIFY program for the youth.

RECTIFY, according to RBC stands for Respect-Educate-CNMI-To-Inspire-the Future-Youth.

The program is held in Koblerville every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons around 4:30pm and also on Saturday mornings.

To sign up for the free clinic, contact RBC at 285-41412 or 233-8978. Parents and volunteers are always welcome.

PIKA-BOO

From Page 28

16: Fire Power! scheduled for Dec. 14.

Mafnas earned the heavyweight bronze prize over teammate Ning Cepeda. Seven fighters joined the heavyweight class.

Cepeda missed the podium against his bigger opponents, but went on to hoist the middleweight gold over Darren Robinson with a choke submission in the final minute of the round. MAPC's Eric Gatemen came away with the middleweight bronze after going through Barrigada Submission Center's John Aguon of Guam. Eight competitors joined the middleweight division.

Jesse tapped out Rey Kim in overtime to win the welterweight gold medal, while Gracie Barra's Kimo Lizama of Guam defeated Trench Tech Donivan Mendiola for the bronze prize. The division had seven fighters.

Masga also got his paws on the gold after winning the bantamweight class over Spike 22-veteran Kenji Okiyama of Guam and eight other contenders.

Chase of Guam-BSC fared very well in his AOW debut and swept a threesome of flyweights, including silver medalist Joe Duenas and Trench Tech bronze medalist Josh "Chaos" Duenas. Chase also stepped up and silenced naysayers with a win over Tavita Lueta for the bantamweight bronze.

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions organized last weekend's Art of War 7, which was sponsored by Monster Energy, Pepsi, and Docomo Pacific.

Trench Tech's next event will be the Rites of Passage 13: Destiny scheduled for Sept. 28. Call 483-4MMA (4662) for more information.

US

From Page 28

record with 156 in an 83-point victory over Nigeria. They are averaging 10 points more than the '08 squad and winning by eight more points per game, and with James, Kevin Durant, Kobe Bryant and Carmelo Anthony, the U.S. has enough hot hands to occupy an octopus.

"We obviously have a lot of talent. Our team here is pretty ridiculous," Bryant said.

The rematch between the world's No. 1 and No. 2 teams was widely expected coming into the games, but Spain hasn't always looked up to the challenge in London.

The Spaniards lost twice in the preliminary round, then faced an 11-point halftime deficit against Russia in the semifinals after managing just 20 points—which is about seven minutes worth of work for the Americans.

Spain rallied for a 67-59 victory, saying afterward how rewarding it was just to get to the gold-medal game while facing a number of injuries. And as the players hugged members of the Spanish royal family, then talked about the difficult circumstances they've overcome, they had the appearance of a team whose work was done, more ready for a vacation than another game within 48 hours.

"I'm not buying that," James said. "It's the same story you hear from Boston every year. They're hurt, they're old, not going to be able to compete, and then next thing you know finals come around, Eastern Conference finals, and they're right there. So I'm not buying that."

Nor is Durant.

"They're probably fooling you guys," he said. "They're a really, really good team. They play hard, they're a tough team, competitive, so it's not going to be a walk in the park for us."

Spain brings size the U.S. can't match, with brothers Pau and Marc Gasol, and Oklahoma City forward Serge Ibaka, who has played professionally in the Spanish leagues and became a Spanish national last year. The Americans will be forced to have James or Anthony defend Marc Gasol, who was an NBA All-Star this year and is much more of a threat than he was in Beijing.

"If I have to defend him, I have to keep him off the glass, rebound," James said. "There's also two sides of the court. If I'm guarding him, he's got to guard me."

Good luck with that, Marc.

James can cap off one of basketball's greatest individual seasons with a second gold medal and join Michael Jordan as the only players to win the NBA regular-season MVP, NBA Finals MVP, NBA title and Olympic title in the same year.

Jordan did it in 1992, when the Dream Team toyed with opponents who weren't ready to play basketball at the highest level yet. Things have changed now, yet the victory margins really haven't, the U.S. still clobbering teams who are much better than the caliber of competition guys like Jordan, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird faced.

The Americans returned to Barcelona last month and routed the Spaniards 100-78 in an exhibition game in which Spain rested Marc Gasol and backup point guard Sergio Rodriguez. Pau Gasol said the Spanish understand the U.S. is a powerful team and the game will be difficult, but it won't prevent his team from fighting.

"It's a huge opportunity," Gasol said. "Very few people get a chance to compete in a final, an Olympic final, in their careers, in their lives, and we are so fortunate that we have our second chance."

Rudy Fernandez, Spain's leading scorer in the 2008 final with 22 points, and fellow star Juan Carlos Navarro have battled nagging injuries this year. The Spanish had already lost dazzling NBA rookie Ricky Rubio, who started for them four years ago and is a much improved player now.

But both James and Anthony dismissed the notion that if the Americans are better than they were in 2008, they should win this game more easily now.

HIGHWAY

From Page 28

with a precarious one-point lead, 66-65, 12.2 seconds left on the clock. Patawaran's second free throw attempt hit the back iron of the ring and bounced off, while Blue Haus and Highway Express players jumped for the rebound.

Pete Lizama was one of the rebounders and managed to sneak in front of the much taller Sheen Metran for the offensive board. Lizama then kicked the ball out to Ferdie Tobias, who was at the right baseline and swung the leather over to the waiting hands of Devero.

Devero caught the ball and with the time winding down made one dribble and pulled up for the tough shot against Trevor Ogumoro, Sam Fernandez, and Bernard Aquino. The Highway Express gunner drained the clutch shot to put his team ahead, 67-66, with 4.3 seconds remaining in the game.

Blue Haus sued for time and when the game resumed, Aquino drove from the left key against two Highway Express defenders, but his banked attempt overshot the mark as time expired.

Highway Express stole the win in its first game in the league, working its way back into the match after falling behind by six, 66-60, with only 1:24 left on the clock.

Blue Haus faltered on its bid for a 2-0 record after missing crucial free throws in the homestretch. Sam Fernandez went 0-for-2, while Melvin Capalad also muffed two charities. Capalad, who came in for Ogumoro with less than two minutes left in the game, already had an earlier booboo when he babied an open shot.

Capalad's miss came after Devero made a layup and cut Blue Haus' lead to two, 64-66, with 30.2 seconds remaining in the game. Blue Haus made a quick inbound and Fernandez spotted Capalad alone in their frontcourt, however the latter's crucial basket rattled off the rim.

Fortunately for Blue Haus, it got the offensive rebound and Highway Express quickly gave up a preemptive foul to stop the clock. Highway Express' gamble then paid off, as Capalad faltered on the two free shots and Patawaran was fouled on the other end after going for a follow-up shot off Lizama's miss.

Patawaran canned his first charity, but his second attempt went too strong. However, Lizama, Tobias, and Devero were there to save Highway Express, teaming up for the game-winning play.

Devero top-scored for Highway Express with 32 points and was the lone player on his team to score in double figures.

Ogumoro paced Blue Haus with 24, making most of them in the third canto where he drained 14 straight markers to lift his team to a 51-46 advantage. Ogumoro was then neutralized in the fourth, as he was held to only one field goal and Blue Haus went on to collapse in the closing minutes of the match.

Highway Express 67—Devero 32, Lizama 8, Patawaran 7, Ritual 4, Tobias 4, Tibayan 4, Herrera 2.

Blue Haus 66 – Ogumoro 24, Aquino 13, Camacho 11, Fernandez 6, Metran 6, Galulu 2, Capalad 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-14, 32-32, 46-51, 67-66.

HOOPS

From Page 28

the first game last Saturday, 70-53, for the right to duel the Hoops for the second and last finals seat.

Konflikt erected a promising 26-17 lead at halftime off the coattails of Ivan Devero, who delivered 10 points in the opening frame. However, Hoops bit down on defense after the intermission and controlled the battle for the boards.

Hoops, who nailed a couple of three-pointers in the first half to stay within range, then turned to its transition offense to fuel a big push at crunch time. Kelvin Fitial made an impact on both ends of the court, as he tallied nine markers in the second half, while Dexter Tenorio also made a couple of clutch shots.

Trevor Ogumoro also helped out the Hoops' cause with his team-high 13 points. Devero managed a dozen on the short end, but was held to just a pair of free throws in the closing period and no one else came to fill the void.

In the first game, Wanna-Be's Pete Lizama held the hot hand out of the gate, draining three long range shots to lift his team to a 32-22 halftime advantage.

The fire spread in the second frame, as Lizama and his teammates buried five more treys, discouraging Blue Haus from launching any comeback attempts. Syl Teregeyo delivered 10 big points in the second half for Wann-Be's, while Jack Lizama sprinkled 16 through the entire match.

In the end, Pete Lizama led Wanne-Be's with his 19 points, while Blue Haus' Badong Camacho muscled his way for 16 markers in the defeat.

First Game

Wanna-Be's 70 – P. Lizama 19, J. Lizama 16, Teregeyo 13, Mendiola 8, Chan 8, Hernandez 6.

Blue Haus 53 – B. Camacho 16, Buenabajo 8, Quan 8, Olivos 6, Peredo 6, Capalad 5, Pantaleon 2, Galulu 2.

Scoring by halves: 32-22, 70-53

Second Game

Hoops 45 – Ogumoro 13, Fitial 11, E. Camacho 6, Tenorio 5, Babauta 3, Hossain 2, Lisua 2, Litulumar 2.

Konflikt-Hip Hop Thunder 40 – Devero 12, N. Mateo 9, Barbo 8, D. Mateo 4, Castro 2, Talania 2, Tumaquip 2.

Scoring by halves: 17-26, 45-40.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

OLYMPICS MEDAL TALLY

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States	44	29	29	102
2	China	38	27	22	87
3	Russia	21	25	32	78
4	Great Britain	28	15	19	62
5	Germany	11	19	14	44
6	Japan	6	14	17	37
7	Australia	7	16	12	35
8	France	10	11	12	33
9	South Korea	13	7	7	27
10	Italy	8	7	8	23
11	Netherlands	6	6	8	20
12	Ukraine	5	4	9	18
13	Canada	1	5	12	18
14	Hungary	8	4	5	17
15	Spain	3	9	4	16
16	Brazil	3	4	8	15
17	New Zealand	5	3	5	13
18	Iran	4	5	3	12
19	Jamaica	4	4	4	12
20	Cuba	4	3	5	12
21	Belarus	3	4	5	12
22	Kazakhstan	6	0	4	10
23	Poland	2	2	6	10
24	Czech Republic	3	3	3	9
25	Romania	2	5	2	9
26	Denmark	2	4	3	9
27	Kenya	2	3	4	9
28	Azerbaijan	2	2	5	9
29	Colombia	1	3	4	8
30	Ethiopia	3	1	3	7
31	Mexico	1	3	3	7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Junior tennis players, golfers, and sluggers shine

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team, the Tournament of Champions and Saipan Major League playoffs dominated last week's headlines.

The exploits of the Commonwealth's junior tennis players in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships were worth mentioning as they held they ground against the representatives of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Norfolk Islands, Guam, Palau, Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, American Samoa, Vanuatu, and Tahiti.

The diminutive Mikayla Lopez stood tall among the U15 players, as she reigned in the singles division, beating CNMI teammate Negahr Rastguiy in the finals. Tammy Ackerman joined her fellow Commonwealth bets in the Top 4 in the girls U15 singles ranking.

Isabel Heras gave the CNMI its second best finish in the tournament in Fiji after placing runner-up to Fiji's Ruby Coffin in the girls U12 singles. Carol Lee was in the same age group and after losing to Heras in the semis, the former still made it to the Top 4.

The Jeff Race-coached team also recorded three fifth place finishes with Christian Miller and Thea Minor getting the No. 5 spots in the boys and girls U18 and Luther Lizama having the same feat in the boys U12.

Completing the CNMI's campaign in Fiji were Rafael Jones and Chris Cajigan, who were both ranked sixth in the boys U18 and U15 divisions, respectively.

The Tournament of Champions produced repeat winners in five-time champion Louie Sunga (Championship Flight) of Guam and former CNMI junior golfer Leina Kim, who clinched her third straight Ladies plum.

In baseball, only two playoffs games in the SML were played last week due to rain.

The second-ranked Saipan Stevedore Yankees won Game 1 of their best-of-three semis series over the defending champions St. Michael Angels, 12-3. In the other semis pairing, pennant champions Tan Holdings Brewers survived the ITE-Shell Fielders, 8-6. The Yankees and Brewers hope to wrap up the semis series this week to arrange their best-of-five title showdown.

Also affected by rain was the DLX caging, which called off its Wednesday's games at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. With the cancellation, only four matches were completed last week with defending champion KFC/Taco Bell recovering from its loss in the opener with a 74-66 win over Hip Hop Thunder. Also posting separate wins last week were LD Prime, Highway Express, and Playboy.

Over at the Garapan Basketball Court, Mobil advanced to the finals of the Summer Jam, while action in the U17 and U25 division of the Docomo caging resumed after the cancellation of several games due to rain.

At the TSL Sports Complex, Wild Bill's secured the men's division crown in the 2012 Saipan Soccer School Summer Futsal League after defeating

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
R-Rebels' Roy Norita tries to dump off a backdoor pass from the baseline during their game against the Rollers in the U25 division of the Docomo caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Tan Holdings Brewers' Byron Kaipat powers through a big swing during Game 1 of their semis series against the IT&E-Shell Fielders in the SML last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Sam Fernandez challenges the defense of Highway Express' Raymark Castro during their game in the DLX caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mikayla Lopez, see here going for a shot near the net, won the girls U15 singles crown in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships played last week in Fiji.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Bong Chun Woo, center, receives his B Flight prizes.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Wild Bill's Adul Detdon, center, and Godfather's Masatoshi Otsuka, second from left, in action during the first half of their intense game in the men's division of the SSS futsal league last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Steve Balakrishna, center, accepts his first place prize in the Super Senior Flight from DFS' Marian Aldan-Pierce, left, and Ben Babauta.

Howard starting over with Lakers
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

US poised to win overall medals race
PAGE 25

‘Pika-Boo’ bags two golds in Art of War

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Trench Tech Purebred’s Shane “Pika-Boo” Alvarez, top, goes to work against Scotty Eclavea in their featherweight gold medal bout in the Art of War 7 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shane “Pika-Boo” Alvarez won a pair of gold medals in the Art of War 7 No-Gi Grappling & Submission Challenge held last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Although there were a lot of impressive performances in the weekend competition, Alvarez’s gold medal wins in the featherweight and lightweight divisions left him the most decorated mixed martial artist in the bunch.

Alvarez went through Scotty Eclavea in the featherweight division that had 14 entries and then survived Trench Tech teammate Vince “The Clinch” Masga and six others in the lightweight category. Robert Alvarez and Trench Tech’s Fasi “Quick Draw” Jesse received the featherweight and lightweight bronzes, respectively.

Other top winners in Art of War 7 were Marianas Elite’s Kelvin “The Big Hit” Fitial, Trench Tech’s Ning Cepeda, Jesse, and Masga, and Guam’s Nathan Chase.

Fitial reestablished his dominance in the heavyweight division by taking out Trench Tech’s Mylo Lassiter with a rear-naked choke submission in their gold medal bout.

Fans have been waiting to see the pair cross paths and though Fitial proved victorious somewhat with ease in what was a brief confrontation, the fight may have served as an appetizer to Trench Warz

See PIKA-BOO on Page 26

Hoops move closer to finals date with Mobil

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherlasnd@saipantribune.cpom
REPORTER

Hoops overcame a nine-point deficit at halftime to pull off a 45-40 win over Konflikt-Hip Hop Thunder during a playoff game in the 18A Summer Jam Friendly Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The victory put the Hoops a win away from facing top-ranked Mobil in this weekend’s winner-take-all finals scheduled for 7pm. Konflikt dropped to the loser’s bracket and will face Wanna-Be’s, who eliminated Blue Haus, in

See HOOPS on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Hoops’ Kelvin Fitial drives to the baseline during their playoff match against Konflikt-Hip Hop Thunder in the Summer Jam caging last Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Highway Express slips past Blue Haus

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Highway Express eked out a thrilling 67-66 victory over Blue Haus in the DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Ivan Devero made the winning basket, drilling his patented fallaway jumper from the right key against the outstretched arms of three Blue Haus defenders in the closing seconds of the exciting match.

The play happened after Jun Patawaran missed his second free throw, leaving Blue Haus

See HIGHWAY on Page 26

Highway Express’ Rocyl Ritual reaches for the ball, while Blue Haus’ Melvin Capalad looks on during the first quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

US faces Spain in finals rematch

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

LONDON (AP) — The Americans say they are better than they were four years ago. So do the stats.

But they might not be the only ones.

In the rematch of the gold-medal game that produced a classic at the Beijing Olympics, the U.S. will square off against the Spaniards again.

“Spain is a better team than ‘08,” LeBron James said. “We understand that they’re a better team, so it’s going to be a good game. So we look forward to it.”

Who wouldn’t, given the Olympic classic they staged in Beijing.

The U.S. completed its climb back to the top of international basketball with a 118-107 victory, pulling away after Spain was within four points in the final 2 1/2 minutes. The game was 40 end-to-end minutes of all offense, all the time, and the Americans could be even more potent now.

They are averaging 116.7 points—just slightly off the Dream Team’s record of 117.3 per game—and set the Olympic

See US on Page 26

AP
United States’ Kobe Bryant, right, and Argentina’s Luis Scola (4) scramble for a loose ball during a men’s basketball semifinal game at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Friday, Aug. 10, 2012, in London.